



Flying start

Air show bosses issue appeal for volunteers

Page 2



Flood pictures

Chaos on the roads after snow melts and rain hits

Pages 6&7



Property

Eight pages of the latest homes on sale in the area

Pages 21-28



Payout by hospital to family of patient

A HIGH Court judge has awarded an undisclosed settlement to the wife and children of a man who died during a botched knee operation at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Louis Belcuore died during surgery to remove cartilage from his knee at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in October 2009.

Mr Belcuore, a 43-year-old businessman, was being treated for a worn cartilage when the operation went drastically wrong as air got into his blood vessels, causing an embolism.

The hospital, which was ordered to pay the undisclosed sum, has previously apologised to the family.

In a statement a spokesman for the hospital trust said: "We are pleased that settlement has been agreed with Mrs Belcuore, the widow of the late Louis Belcuore."

"Mr Belcuore died at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital on October 20, 2009 during a routine knee arthroscopy."

"The trust made an early admission of liability and the parties lawyers have been working together to achieve settlement for Mrs Belcuore and her children which has now been approved by the court."

"The trust deeply regrets the tragic loss of Mr Belcuore's life and offers its sincere apologies."

● **Fight - See Page 2**

Church has been named

READERS have been calling us to identify pictures published in last week's Chronicle of a mystery church.

Alan and Ann Sagar, of Chirk, asked us to help identify pictures that had been in their family for nearly 100 years and they turned out to be of St Melangell's Church, at Llangynog which houses the restored shrine of Saint Melangell, reputed to be the oldest Romano-British shrine in Great Britain.

We are grateful to our readers.

SHAKE-UP OF MP SEATS PUT ON ICE

PLANNED boundary changes which would have seen the Montgomeryshire constituency scrapped have been put on hold.

The plans, backed by the Tories, were defeated by 334 votes to 292 in the House of Commons on Tuesday meaning the planned constituency shake-up will be postponed until 2018 at the earliest.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who voted against the Government for the first time, said that despite the vote going the way he wanted for the sake of Mid Wales, he did not feel 'joyous'.

If the changes had gone ahead, the Montgomeryshire seat would have been scrapped, with the Welshpool area put into a North Powys and Glynwyr constituency and Newtown joining Llandrindod Wells in a South Powys constituency.

It was the first time Lib Dem ministers have voted against their Conservative coalition colleagues in the commons.

by Andy Morris

FA research boss to give tips to firms

A SENIOR man at the English FA will be guest speaker at the Oswestry Chronicle Business Club meeting on Wednesday, which is held in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce.

Dr Andy Cale, who is head of player development and research at the FA, will talk about how strategic thinking and planning within a governing body can be adapted for use in the business community.

He is responsible for research and development into coach education and player development. His role also includes the specific oversight of all aspects of sports psychology support and course design, performance analysis and international team administration services.

Dr Cale is a former manager of The New Saints, Newtown and Rhyl Football Clubs.

The meeting, which is open to all local businesses, starts at 7pm in The Wynnstey Hotel and follows the February meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce at 6pm.

Businesses will also hear from Midland News Association's promotions manager Viv Birch about the launch of this year's Chronicle Business Awards.

Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow will speak on the future of Oswestry and the Joint Economic Board. Also on the agenda is feedback from Christmas trading.

The two parties have been in dispute since proposed elections to the House of Lords were dropped last year.

Mr Davies said: "Thank the good Lord that is over and there will be no more obsessing about boundary reform. In the end, the ship went down by 42 votes - a bigger majority than anyone expected."

"Despite the vote going the way I wanted it, I don't feel at all joyous. It's a bad feeling, not to have supported the Government and it is the first time I've done that."

Damage

When the plans were first announced, Mr Davies said he would not carry on his role if they were passed.

He said: "If passed, the Montgomeryshire I have known man and boy would be no more. The new constituencies that touch on mid Wales will have population centres elsewhere. My local party association is so horrified by the implications of the proposals that it has told me in no uncertain terms that they want me to oppose the new boundaries."

"And at a personal level, I would hate to see all the work we have done to build our association in Montgomeryshire disappear in a cloud of angry blue smoke - because I believe those who have done this transformational work will not carry on. The outcome would be so horrific that I simply couldn't carry on either."

Parliament agreed in principle in 2011 to reduce the number of MPs and to redraw the electoral map to make all constituencies roughly the same size in terms of number of voters.

Some believe the proposals, which were backed at the time by both coalition parties, would help the Conservatives win up to 20 extra seats at a future election.

But a row over plans to reform the Lords - abandoned in the face of Conservative opposition - led the Lib Dems to say they will block implementation of the boundary review until after the next election in 2015.

Nancy helps pay tribute



Nancy Povey from Chirk, during a 70th memorial anniversary service at Bwlch-Y Rhwif Farmhouse near Llansilin. Picture: Simon Williams.

A CHIRK woman, who as a child survived when a World War II bomber crashed into her house killing her parents, has helped pay tribute to those who died in the disaster 70 years ago.

On January 25, 1943, a Wellington bomber on a night time training flight from Harwell in Berkshire crashed into the side of Mr Edwin Williams' farm house near

Llansilin, Oswestry. The bedroom floor gave way and the house burst into flames. Mr Williams and his wife, Annie Jane, were killed, along with the five crew members, all RAF sergeants. Their daughter survived.

On Saturday the 70th anniversary was marked with a wreath laying ceremony and among those paying tribute was Nancy.

● **Ceremony - See Page 3**

Sales soar as JLS are signed up for Osfest

CHART-toppers JLS have helped ticket sales for a star-studded festival at Oswestry to soar.

The boyband, who shot to fame after appearing on ITV talent show X Factor in 2008, will perform at Osfest - Break for the Border in May.

After festival organisers made the announcement all 800 early buy tickets sold out.

Carly Jackson, event director, said: "Since we announced that JLS are coming to the festival the phones have been going wild. Ticket requests are flying through on the email."

"The response has been great. We have even had a call from Ireland."

"A lot of people are saying 'well done' and they are thrilled to see JLS coming to the festival."

JLS are a four piece band comprising Aston Merrygold, Oritse Williams, J.B. Gill and Marvin Humes.

Their county appearance comes ahead of a massive UK arena tour this December.

Osfest - Break for the Border will be held at the showground in Park Hall, near Oswestry, from May 24-27 and is expected to be a sell-out with more than 5,000 people attending.

It has been running for the past three years and attracted a number of top acts including rock bands Razorlight and Hard-Fi.

Call 01691 680468 or visit www.osfest.co.uk

Council will probe claim

A CONSULTATION has been launched after it was claimed street traders set up without authority in Oswestry over Christmas.

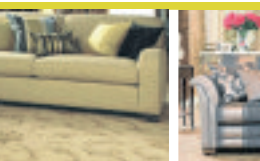
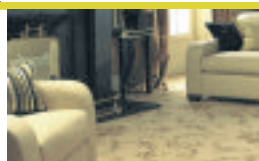
Shopkeepers say traders arrived at Christmas Live on December 7 selling torches, hats and other Christmas-themed products but did not have to pay to trade.

Oswestry Town Council will now be discussing the issue at its a meeting on February 20.

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CONTACT US**Editor: Caroline Jones**

Tel: 01952 241416 E-mail: caroline.jones@shropshirestar.co.uk

Associate Editor: Graham Breeze

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Sport: Alex James

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Oswestry photographic

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Welshpool photographic

Tel: 01938 553319 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertising:**Alison Jukes**

Tel: 01691 668090 E-mail: ajukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans

Tel: 01691 668095 E-mail: marcusevans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Christina Cookson

Tel: 01691 668089 E-mail: christina.cookson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Welshpool Advertising:**Heidi Frost**

Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: hfrost@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones

Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Widow vows fight will go on over botched op

by Sue Austin

THE heartbroken widow of a businessman who died during a botched knee operation at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital said on Tuesday she could not rest until disciplinary proceedings against the surgeon were complete.

Penny Belcuore was awarded an undisclosed settlement by a High Court judge this week following the death of her husband Louis at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital.



Penny Belcuore

Court told of cyclist's crash pain

A WOMAN cyclist was left in 'horrendous pain' after her legs were run over by a motorist in Oswestry a court heard this week.

Susan Heater, 59, of Bramford Lane in Ipswich, admitted driving without due care and attention in Salop Road on August 22 last year.

She represented herself at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

Magistrates gave her nine penalty points on her licence and a fine of £110. She was made to pay £60 costs and a victim surcharge of £15.

Miss Sara Beddow, prosecuting, said cyclist Sarah-Charlotte Peace was struck by the car. She said: "She was in horrendous pain."

Heater told the court: "I am very sorry. I never saw her coming."

But she said she remains 'in limbo', with the General Medical Council yet to rule on the conduct of Professor James Richardson, who carried out the surgery.

Mr Belcuore, a 43-year-old father of three young children, suffered an air embolism during the operation, leading to a fatal heart attack in October 2009.

His family was awarded a 'substantial' sum at a hearing in Birmingham following an earlier admission of liability by the trust which runs the hospital.

But Mrs Belcuore said her focus would now switch to the stalled GMC hearing over Professor Richardson.

The tribunal was adjourned on Friday, with Professor Richardson facing allegations including that adjustments he made to equipment went against manufacturer's guidelines.

Mrs Belcuore said: "For the past three and a half years I have felt in a state of limbo, trying to find out exactly what happened and why Louis died suddenly during what should have been a routine knee operation."

Mrs Belcuore's lawyer, Victoria Blankstone of Irwin Mitchell, said the adjournment of the GMC proceedings had caused further heartache for the family.

An apology from the hospital trust was read out in court.

Air show's off to flying start



Welshpool Mayor John Meredith, Bob Jones's widow Linda and air show committee member Squadron Leader Albie Fox at the launch event.

WELSHPOOL'S air show will go-ahead this year and organisers are appealing for support from the local business community.

The show, in memory of an airport owner who died in a plane crash a year ago, will be the most successful yet - if businesses get on board and back it.

Organisers of the Bob Jones Memorial Air Show in Welshpool have launched the build-up for this year's show by asking local businesses to help try and make it bigger and better than ever.

The show has been held for a number of years as Welshpool Air Show, but was renamed last year after Mr Jones' death in a plane crash on Long Mountain, just outside the town.

Mr Jones and former easyJet pilot Steven Carr were killed when the Piper Navajo plane they were in hit fog-covered trees on

the mountain on January 18 last year. Welshpool mayor, Councillor John Meredith, said that while last year's event, the first to carry Mr Jones' name, was memorable, he wanted this one to be even better.

He said: "This year's air show is scheduled for June 9 at the airport, and organisers hope to make it even more successful than last year's."

"Once again the event will be combined with Welshpool's Festival of Transport, promising plenty to see both in the air and on the ground. However the success of the air show will depend on sufficient support, and airshow committee members."

Any business interested in getting involved in the air show can contact the committee through the Welshpool Town Council office on (01938) 553142 or by e-mail: wtocouncil@btinternet.com

01691 668094

Hospital to set up volunteer database

A DATABASE of volunteers working at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is to be set up in the light of the Jimmy Savile sex scandal.

Bosses at the hospital will also conduct a review of the use of mobile phones to ensure photographs are not taken within clinical areas.

The action was agreed after Oswestry Orthopaedic, which Savile visited in 1999 to launch the start of work on its spinal injuries unit, was among all hospitals in England contacted by NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson.

In his letter Sir David described the Savile allegations as 'appalling' and said it was 'deeply disturbing to think that abuses of this nature may have occurred in NHS organisations'.

He said Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Leeds General Infirmary and West London Mental Health Trust where Savile volunteered were working with police as part of their investigations.

The hospital's trust board meeting last Thursday was told a review had been carried out and was told staff and League of Friends volunteers underwent CRB checks.

The board was told the hospital's human resources team will establish a central database of volunteers by April and the mobile phone policy will be reviewed.

Cancer trust is given £160 lift

THE Teenage Cancer Trust has been boosted by a donation from students from Warrford and North Shropshire College.

The idea for charity fundraising followed lecturer Julie Ball's discussion about giving back to society.

Volunteers had their legs waxed and there was also a cake sale, raising £160.

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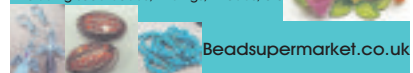
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NEWS

Artists to celebrate libraries at event

ARTISTS will be gathering to celebrate the county's libraries.

Inside Out Art Group members will be meeting at Oswestry Library on February 9 to hold demonstrations as part of this year's National Library Day.

Wood carver Jim Heath will be demonstrating how he makes wooden puppets and talk about how stories help bring them to life.

Steve Charnley, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member responsible for libraries, said: "We are looking forward to celebrating the inspirational and creative role libraries play in people's lives."

"If you haven't been for a while, come on in, take a look around and see what's going on."

"There really is something for everyone."

Keith Barrow, Shropshire Councillor for Oswestry South, said: "This event is a fine demonstration of the creative soul of the town and the library is the perfect place to hold it."

"What better inspiration is there than a place brimming with timeless stories and hidden knowledge?"

Diana Baur, of the Inside Out Art Group, said: "It's an opportunity for us to show how much libraries mean to artists."

The artists will be exhibiting the results of their day's creativity at an event later in the year.

Crew called to chimney fire

A FIRE crew was called to a chimney fire at a house in Oswestry on Monday.

One appliance from the town attended the incident in Ash Road and used chimney rods to put it out.

The crew was called at 5.55pm and was stood down at 6.47pm.

Ceremony marks 70th year since tragic bomber crash

by Sue Austin and Chris Burn

A WORLD War II bomber crash near Oswestry that killed seven people has been remembered on its 70th anniversary.

On January 25, 1943, a Wellington bomber on a night time training flight from Harwell in Berkshire crashed into the side of Mr Edwin Williams' farm house near Llansillin, Oswestry. The bedroom floor gave way and the house burst into flames. Mr Williams and his wife, Annie Jane, were killed, along with the five crew members, all RAF sergeants.

Among those paying tribute at a ceremony at the site on Saturday was their daughter Nancy Povey, who was in the house when it was hit and needed to be rescued.



Llewelyn Ellis, front, lays a poppy wreath with Roy Fry, Poppy Appeal organiser.

Also at the memorial was Llewelyn Ellis, who was the first person on the scene after the devastating crash.

Andrew Mathews and Gill Holbrook were also among the 15 people who gathered at the scene at the weekend. Their mother Elizabeth Mary Walker had been the fiancée of John Todd, one of the RAF crew members who died at the scene – just weeks before the pair were due to get married.

Members of the Oswestry branch of the Royal British Legion laid a special wreath at the side of the rebuilt Bwlch-y-rhiw Farmhouse to remember those who died.

Appeal

The wreath, which is the first of its kind in Britain, was designed by the new Poppy Appeal organiser for Oswestry, Roy Fry, after he realised that those supplied by the British Legion featured armed forces emblems.

He designed a generic emblem that has now been adopted for use nationwide.

"I produced a template and submitted it to the Poppy Appeal headquarters in Aylesford, Kent, for comments," he said.

"Officials liked the idea and the design can now be customised to suit local requirements."

Ray Shepherd, the national head of the Poppy Appeal, said: "We are delighted here at the Poppy Appeal that a number of local branches and organisations are now interested in having their own badge centre for a wreath."

Some eye witnesses to the bomber crash 70 years ago believed that the plane may have struck the 1,100ft ridge of Craig-y-rhiw or the tiny hill-fort of Coed-y-Gaer, before plunging into the side of the house.

Mr Williams, a sergeant in the Moelfre Platoon of the Home Guard, was buried with his wife in a military funeral at Llansillin on January 29, 1943.

Their son and daughter survived the accident along with a land girl who was staying with them at the time. A plaque was erected at the site in 1993 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the crash.



Left to right, Llewelyn Ellis, Andrew Mathews, Nancy Povey and Annie Williams. Pictures: Simon Williams.



Leigh Northcott Hammond, lay reader for the parish of Llansillin, right, presides over the 70th memorial anniversary service at Bwlch-Y-Rhiw Farmhouse near Llansillin.

NEWS

in brief

Roadshow event for new students

AN educational roadshow is being held in Oswestry on Saturday to outline to students the benefits of studying in Shrewsbury.

The event at St Oswald's Parish Centre is one of a series organised by Shrewsbury Sixth Form College and will run from 10am to 5pm.

They are designed to showcase the range of opportunities available to those looking for a place in further education.

Martin Ward, principal of Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, said: "We decided to bring the roadshow to Oswestry in order to provide young people from across the town with a convenient way to find out just what we have to offer."

To book a one-to-one appointment call (01743) 235491 or email admissions@ssfc.co.uk

Man sentenced over drugs raid

A MAN who was found in possession of 5g of cannabis during a drugs raid in Welshpool has been given a conditional discharge.

Police swooped on the home of Leon Perry, 34, from Gallowes Tree Bank on January 10, finding him in possession of the class b drug.

He admitted a charge of possessing cannabis at Welshpool Magistrates Court and was ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Helen Tench, prosecuting, said officers found the 5.5g in three separate bags. She said the street value was £40.

Paul Inns, for Perry, said his client had decided to seek treatment for his addiction.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held at the Conservative Office in High Street, Welshpool, on March 16 between 10am and 12noon.

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NEWS

Teacher jailed for sex abuse

by Graham Breeze



David Timmins

A TEACHER has been jailed for more than two and a half years after admitting sexual activity with a teenage girl.

Former Oswestry man David Timmins, 41, a history teacher, who was in charge of child protection at Ercall Wood School in Telford, was sentenced to two years and eight months in jail.

He was told by a judge at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Monday that he would never work with children again.

According to Timmins' Facebook page, he was a student at Oswestry College in 1992 and 1993 before moving on to study history and literature at the University of Glamorgan.

He qualified as a teacher after completing his training at Swansea University in 1997.

Timmins, now of no fixed abode, had admitted three offences of sexual activity with a child at an earlier hearing.

Timmins bombarded the girl with e-mails and showered her with gifts, including one half of the friendship necklace that he wore. He even tried to contact her after his arrest.

When he was caught and arrested on child sex charges, Timmins initially tried to blame the school for 'over promoting' him.

Judge Robin Onions, who said Timmins would have to serve half the sentence, said it had been an emotionally, physically abusive relationship in which the teacher had all the power.

Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting, said the offences took place last year and came to light when e-mails were discovered.

Mr Michael Sherwood Smith, for Timmins, said his client had been a teacher at Ercall Wood for 14 years and had been pastoral care manager for three of four years.

He said: "He received no training in this and was out of his depth. He was drinking excessively and spending money recklessly."

Judge Onions ordered Timmins to be placed on the sexual offenders' register.

PM's speech hailed by MPs

PRIME Minister David Cameron's promise of an in/out referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union has been welcomed by the area's Tory MPs.

Mr Cameron said the Conservative manifesto for the 2015 general election would ask for a mandate to renegotiate the settlement with the EU and put it to voters in a referendum by the end of 2017.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson hailed Mr Cameron's 'bold' speech.

He said: "To make the euro work there must be much tougher arrangements in the eurozone which we can't possibly follow, so we need to negotiate a new settlement."

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies added: "I welcome David Cameron's speech. It is clear that the British people are very concerned about the remorseless transfer of sovereignty to the EU."

"It is right that the relationship be renegotiated and then put before the people in a referendum."

Tasty fundraiser for Vanessa



EATING cake at a charity cakeathon fundraiser at Ellesmere College held in memory of Matthew Dewhirst, is Vanessa Bateman. The event was held to raise money for Cardiac Risk in the Young. Picture: Simon Williams.

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NEWS

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New sport maker is boost for college and community

A COLLEGE in Shropshire has recruited a new member of staff to help boost sports and physical activities for students and the community.

The sports faculty at Walford and North Shropshire College has created the role of College Sport Maker for new staff member Benji Evans.

Mr Evans will be increasing sports at both of the college's campuses by drawing up a programme of activities, competitions and events which will help meet the needs of all students, staff and local community members. It is hoped this will help to encourage people who don't normally play sports to get involved.

by Graham Breeze

Jail warning to bully who used website

A JUDGE has warned that those who bully people using the Facebook internet site are not immune to prosecution.

On Monday a 20-year-old man from Ellesmere appeared before Shrewsbury Crown Court and admitted a charge of intimidation.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecution, said Drew Halligan from Berwyn View, Ellesmere, used Facebook to intimidate another Ellesmere man, Mr Daniel Wray.

Judge Robin Onions warned Halligan that the court of appeal had decreed that in such cases judges had to consider custody.

"People seem to think that they can say what they want to say on Facebook and get away with it but this is not the case," he said.

He adjourned the case for the preparation of reports and Halligan was given bail.

Mr Evans will also recruit and train about 100 students and community members to become Sport Makers to help lead and support activities. Coach education and relevant training will be available for all Sport Makers and full support will be provided throughout the programme.

Mr Evans has worked in sports development and sports coaching in the last decade and has worked for the Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership (WREP) charity as a Sport, Health and Physical Activity Officer and has been a Regional Swimming Development Officer for Swim Wales covering six counties across North Wales.

Paralympic

He graduated from Glyndwr University with a BA Honours degree in sport and has other relevant sports coaching qualifications.

He has also been heavily involved with disability sport and has worked with a number of elite Paralympic athletes. He also spent time as head coach of Great Britain's Special Olympic Women's football team.

Liam McGrath, program area leader for sport and leisure, said: "We are really pleased to have been able to appoint someone with Benji's experience and qualifications and look forward to increasing sports opportunities for all people within the local area."

For more information visit the website www.wnsc.ac.uk or call (01691) 688000.



Beni Evans, right, is welcomed by Liam McGrath

Store collection to aid animals

A COLLECTION at Oswestry's Sainsbury's supermarket for the World Society for the Protection of Animals raised £102, organisers have said.

Shoppers have been thanked for their generosity by group member April Harris. The collection was held on January 12.

The group is calling for items to be sold at its forthcoming table sale at Oswestry Memorial Hall on February 16.

It needs toys, games, cuddly toys and a-brac.

Anyone who can help should call (01691) 670110.

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More chaos on the roads after



A car goes through water on the A495 near Ellesmere.



No way through due to flood water on the A483 at Four Crosses. Pictures: Simon Williams.



Cars plough through water on the A483 at Four Crosses.



A 4x4 drives through flood water on the A483.



A tractor pulls a car out of water on A483 at Four Crosses.



A 4x4 tows a car out of flood water.

CARS became stranded, roads were closed and sheep had to be rescued as heavy rainfall and rising temperatures caused flash flooding in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas at the weekend.

The sudden change in the weather over the weekend washed away the build-up of snow

across the region and added to problems on roads and rivers.

Roads were also shut off at Llyncllys, Oswestry, after huge pools of floodwater developed, while there were also difficult conditions

for drivers at Prees Heath because of flooding. Cars had to be towed out at Llyncllys, Four Crosses and Llanymynech, after driving into deep floodwater and getting marooned.

The village was almost cut off by floodwater

after the surrounding roads became submerged by the rising river.

Lorries

The Welshpool to Oswestry road was closed

Daily bus services run from Ellesmere, Wem and Shrewsbury

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VACANT

Former Coach Yard, Opposite Gobowen Station, off Chirk Road, Gobowen
By order of BRB (Residuary) Ltd
Lot 117: Freehold former coach yard extending to approximately 0.518 hectares (1.29 acres). Possible potential for residential development subject to obtaining all necessary consents.

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By order of BRB (Residuary) Ltd
Lot 118: Freehold former goods yard extending to approximately 2.2505 hectares (5.57 acres). Possible potential for residential development subject to obtaining all necessary consents.

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25 The Terraces, Morda, Nr Oswestry
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By Order of Administrators
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DECEMBER SALE - £42m raised 87% sold



NEWS

01691 668094

change in weather leads to floods



The A483 at Four Crosses was covered in flood water.



A driver gets stuck in the water near Oswestry.



A flooded road in Llanymynech.



A flooded field near Melverley.



Fields across the area were left covered by the water.



A torrent of flood water near Llanymynech.

to anything but four wheel drive and lorries between Four Crosses and Llanymynech as The Severn breached its banks, and the Forden road was blocked at the Montgomeryshire Airport.

Roads between Forden and Garthmyl, from Welshpool to Llanfair Caereinion and in the Llansantffraid area were impassable. A flock of sheep had to be rescued by fire crews from near a travellers' site in Welshpool just after 10am on

Sunday after being swept into the River Severn.

The crew used boats to try to rescue 12 sheep, but only two could be saved. Firefighters from Oswestry had been called out two hours earlier

to rescue 15 sheep trapped in floodwater at Llanyblodwel. The flood waters had risen, creating an island on which the animals were stranded. A farmer used his tractor to rescue the animals while a fire crew went to help.

The Environment Agency issued two flood warnings for the county, on the River Vyrnwy at Melverley including Melverley Green, and the River Severn at the Showground and The Quarry in Shrewsbury.

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COMMENT

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Education is needed on dangers of cyber world

THIS new cyber world we live in is fraught with danger.

Many are now using social network sites to hide their identities and abuse and bully others without a thought that they may be breaking the law.

This week a 20-year-old Ellesmere man appeared in court and was forced to admit a charge of intimidation on Facebook after making threats on the popular site.

The judge warned that those who bully people using Facebook were not immune to prosecution and said that such cases warranted custodial sentences.

Cyberbullying is defined as the use of the internet to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. As it has become more common in society, particularly among young people, legislation and awareness campaigns have arisen to combat it.

Abuse by texting or via e-mail is also

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



regarded as a serious offence and is a growing concern as new communication methods unveil themselves.

The reality is that once a message is published in the public domain, and that means all open internet applications, the author is governed by the same laws – including libel – as we in the newspaper industry.

Somewhere along the line we have to begin an educational programme about the use of social network sites, particularly for our youngsters. Schools must surely start the process soon.

Life as a journalist is rarely dull and is such an attractive occupation because of the variation of activities. The past week has had its ups and downs and highs and lows.

Highlight of the week was sipping champagne on Concorde (yes THE Concorde) at The National Museum of Flight in East Fortune as a guest of Mazda Motor Company. The museum is in the middle of nowhere and was a brilliant location for Mazda to launch their latest car – a Mazda 6.

The British Airways Concorde fleet retired in October 2003. The following year, G-BOAA said farewell to Heathrow and took to the water on the first step of a seaborne journey to Scotland. Concorde was loaded on to a specialist barge at the tiny Thames port of Isleworth.

Concorde's week-long journey ended in an hour-long trundle across muddy fields to East Fortune. At the time, Concorde's journey north was thought to have been one of

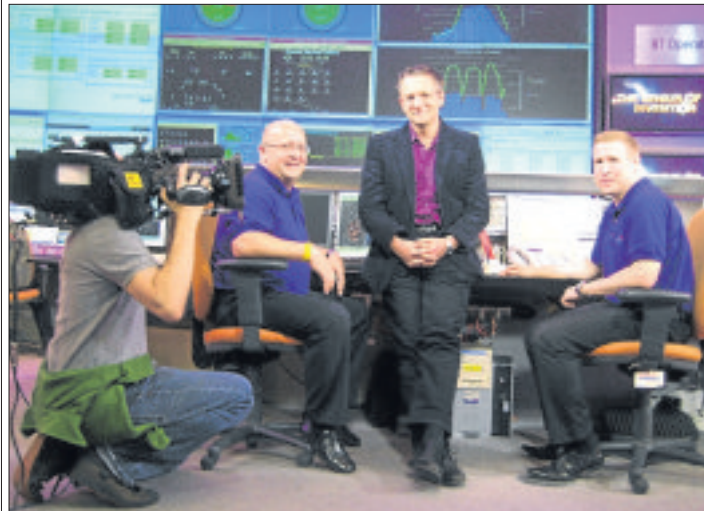
the most complex of any transport venture undertaken.

It was an unusual and unexpected experience and one not to be forgotten bringing home just how big a shame it is that the Concorde project came to such a sudden end.

THE lows came in witnessing the misery being suffered by so many as floods once again engulfed the Shropshire/Powys border. As the snow vanished the inevitable flooding followed and even the farming community was caught out by the speed in which the water arrived.

Sunday was spent ferrying family members around after my daughter-in-law-to-be saw her car engulfed by motorists refusing to reduce their speeds on partially flooded roads. An hour at the flood-scene was enough to convince me that our roads are populated by lunatics. It's just not clever to ignore 'flood warning' signs and charge into flood waters as fast as you can!

TV show goes behind the scenes at NASA-style hub



BT's Tony Rhodes and Steve Beaumont being interviewed by Michael Mosley.

by Graham Breeze

A BT communications hub in Shropshire is to be featured in a BBC Two documentary next week.

The network management centre on the outskirts of Oswestry is to be in the programme The Genius of Invention.

It will be aired on Thursday, February 7, at 9pm as part of the BBC's new Genius of Invention season.

The particular episode with Oswestry's hub will be the third of four and follows the development of communications.

The series began on January 24, focusing on power, with other programmes covering transport and the visual image.

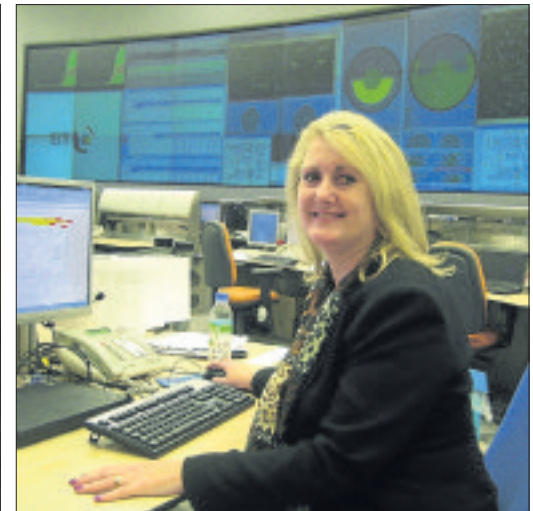
BT's 'NASA mission control-style' centre, with its giant video wall, provides the perfect television studio backdrop for debates, reports and experiments by presenters Dr Michael Mosley, Professor Mark Miodownik and Dr Cassie Newland.

As well as exploring the history of the telegraph, telephone and wireless technolo-

gies, the programme gives viewers a rare glimpse into the day-to-day workings of the busy hub, which acts as the eyes and ears of BT's UK and international communications networks.

Exciting

Barbara McNally-Young, the centre manager, said: "It was very exciting for us to be part of this extremely interesting programme, which was the culmination of weeks of planning by lots of people and a massive team effort during the two very long days of filming."



BT's Barbara McNally-Young.

"Whilst we're pleased to be able to give people an insight into what we do here, it was also intriguing for us to see what goes into making a programme like this."

Around five billion calls pass over or connect through BT's 'core' network every month. The Oswestry team also monitors volumes of phone traffic around the world through its network of subsea cables and via satellites.

The programme is expected to reach a global audience through the internet and BBC Worldwide.

Advertisement feature

IS MUM ENTITLED TO HALF THE HOUSE THAT'S IN DAD'S NAME IF SHE LEAVES HIM?

Q: My mum moved in with her boyfriend nearly twenty years ago. Then they had me and my sister but they never got married. We are really fed up because our parents do nothing but fight these days. We think our mum should leave our dad but she says we would lose everything if she left him because even though she's been helping him to pay the mortgage and the bills, it's his house. But isn't she entitled to half the house if she's been helping to pay for it all these years?

A: Unmarried parents account for three quarters of family breakdowns in this country these days, yet there have been no significant changes in the law to reflect this and there is a surprising number of people who still wrongly believe that the law will automatically protect them if the relationship breaks down.

Unlike married couples, unmarried couples have no automatic rights to their partner's property if they split up. So if the property is in your dad's sole name, it will remain his provided your mum could prove she is entitled to a share in the property if she and your dad separated. Trying to prove such an intention is not impossible, but it can be difficult and costly.

I would advise any couple thinking about moving into a home together, whether that is into a rented or a purchased property, to have a legal contract drawn up before they start living together, regarding what happens if they separate. I realise this does not help your mother's situation but what I can say is that with the help of a good family lawyer she may not lose everything if she leaves your father.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Monaghan, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary).



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LETTERS

We need experts and the workers

I AM passionately pro-education but think it should be a lifelong adventure. It shouldn't end at 16, 18 or 22, neither should it be exclusively about passing exams.

When a man or a woman loses their intellectual curiosity, when they no longer marvel and wonder, they may as well be in the churchyard.

I feel, though, that too many young people are going to university to read subjects which are too esoteric, arcane and impractical. Not enough doing science, engineering etc.

How many of us are ever in desperate need of someone with a degree in philosophy or Persian poetry? But most of us are often in dire need of a plumber, an electrician or garage mechanic.

At regular intervals we need the services of hairdressers and barbers. Every week we rely on people to grow and to produce our food and to manufacture our clothes, furniture, electrical gadgets, etc to drive us to and from work and so on.

In a civilised society there should always be a certain number of experts on medieval philosophy, Anglo Saxon poetry, the Punic Wars, Renaissance painting and so on, but they shouldn't be considered vastly superior to the men and women who work in crafts and trades, many earning far less money than scholars in the groves of academia.

SIDNEY EVANS
Chirk

Thank you for support

AS SECRETARY of Ellesmere Comrades Club I would like to thank the many members and guests of our club who raised many thousands of pounds for local charities organised by members of the club.

Among the donations was the fantastic amount of £1,261 raised for Severn Hospice, this being the result of a stage show featuring a tribute group called Sincerely Abba.

The club is happy to announce a return visit of this show in aid of other local charities. This will take place on February 16. Tickets are now on sale priced at £12 and are strictly limited.

JOHN G METCALFE
Ellesmere Comrades
Sport & Social Club

Surprise at MPs' pay rise support

I WAS surprised to read an editorial supporting a pay rise for MPs.

I would advocate halving the number of MPs and then the salary of the half remaining.

We are sending troops around the world to fight for democracy with an unacceptable casualty rate while our own democracy is being seriously eroded by those in our Parliament and in Brussels.

We have endured four years of cut-backs in every department except leadership - we retain 881 peers in the House of Lords, 646 MPs and 86 MEPs. The House of Lords is already the

second biggest legislator in the world after China and bigger than the combined two houses of the Indian parliament with a population of 1.2 billion - Why?

It was reported this week that the cost of keeping one MEP is £1.8 million per annum. In comparison our 646 Westminster MPs cost us £590,000 each. I understand the majority of the 881 peers are not salaried.

But all are entitled to a daily, tax free attendance allowance of £300.

This is a nice little earner which will deliver £45,000 after the normal 150 annual attendances.

And it will be just shy of a quarter of a million over five years.

In conclusion, I think there are far too many 'leaders' and they cost us too much.

Our MPs are ignoring the obvious fact that their workload has been more than halved by the European Union which is currently filling 80 per cent of our statute book.

There are very few 'leaders' who are overworked, even fewer who can be trusted. There are none who deserve a 32 per cent pay rise.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Runners urged to get into fast lane

DO any of your readers have a passion for running and would like to race a half-marathon at the home of British motor sports, Silverstone racetrack?

There are a few free places left for runners who can raise sponsorship for World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) but applications must be in by February 15.

The March 3 race is the perfect warm up for anyone planning to run marathons in London or Brighton the following month and the flat surface gives seasoned runners the chance to clock up a record time.

By running with WCRF entrants get full support from a dedicated member of WCRF's events team; training and nutrition advice; essential kit, including your unique vest and a fundraising pack full of tips on raising cash.

You will even receive your own online sponsorship page.

Please call (020) 7343 4200 or visit www.wcrf-uk.org/signup to race for WCRF.

NATALIE TARRANT
Senior Fundraising Manager
World Cancer Research Fund



FRANKED at Oswestry on October 26, 1921, this postcard view of Church Street has the following message on the back: 'I hope Mrs Jones is better than she has been & others well. When shall we have the pleasure of seeing you (in) town. My cousin returns today. Hoping others are well, love & kindest regards (signature unreadable).' It was posted to Miss Jones, The Manse, Trefnanny, Meifod. It comes from the collection of postcard collector Ray Farlow.

Horse meat is safe, but should not be on sale

A RESPONSE to some rather disingenuous answers to the horse meat burger issue.

The Food Standards Agency say horse meat is safe to eat.

Horse meat for human consumption is a very expensive luxury speciality. Look in any French butcher's shop.

But these horses were pets who had been slaughtered to save the cost of disposal.

Old, sick and having been medicated, they were suitable only for pet food and would not have had the stringent protocols necessary for them to enter the human food chain.

LAWRIE MOSS
Ellesmere

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Kelley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX

01952
254605

E-MAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Lock keeper wouldn't have much to do here

CONCERNING the report in the Oswestry & Border Chronicle (January 25) about a volunteer lock keeper needed for the canal in Welshpool.

He/she wouldn't have much to do, as the canal through Welshpool is an isolated 13-mile section of the Montgomery canal.

Very few boats use this waterway, which is a great shame because the canal really does need using. Weed growth during the summer is really bad.

The only boats that use the lock on a regular basis are the two narrow boats belonging to the Heulwen Trust.

ALAN BARNES
Welshpool

Those were good days

IN the winter of 1963 my father, Denis Lea, and I cycled to work every day from Harlescott to Telephone House, Smithfield Road. When we arrived our fronts were covered from head to toe with frost, but we were warm inside.

From our offices we watched the ice floes floating down the river, getting stuck and eventually freezing right over.

BERYL WILLETS
Oswestry

I'm confused

I WAS interested to read that the Reverends Thornburn, Sykes, Wilson and Burton wholeheartedly support the building of a mosque in Oswestry.

Are they equally supportive of the message and claims of Islam? Confused.

TONY SUTTON
Berriew

Flooding risks will be raised

IN England we already have a problem of excess and torrential rainfall eroding and washing away soil from fields.

In Shropshire there are concerns that the sediment washed from fields and carried into the River Severn is affecting fish numbers and survival, particularly salmon.

Removing hedgerows and trees to such a significant extent exacerbates soil erosion and its deposition in the River Severn, and thereby increases the risk of harm to wildlife and increases the risk of flooding.

It is therefore very damaging to remove hedges and trees in any significant numbers, and all at once.

It comes at a cost to the environment and will have a counter effect to the expensive flood defence systems taxpayers have paid dearly for.

J MCCARTHY
Oswestry

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WELSHPOOL

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NEWS

in brief

Groups thanked for weather help

WELSHPOOL area residents and voluntary organisations have been praised for their efforts in helping to maintain services during the recent severe weather.

Chairman of Powys County Council, Councillor Susan McNicholas said: "We are indebted to those members of the public and voluntary organisations who helped the county council maintain vital services during the worst of the winter weather. I would also like to praise organisations like the St Johns Ambulance, who have helped transport residents."

Tickets on sale for charity lunch

TICKETS have gone on sale for a fundraising St David's Day Lunch at Welshpool Town Hall.

The event on Saturday, March 2 is being staged to aid Marie Curie Cancer Care and the £20 ticket price includes a drink and a two-course meal.

Tickets from Kaye Derwas on 07834 539260, Sian Danford on 07977 159677 or Ruth Lloyd on 07989 259248.

Advice surgeries
MONTGOMERYSHIRE AM Russell George will hold an advice surgery at Bear Lanes Shopping Centre in Newtown on March 9. Another will be at 20 High Street, Welshpool, on March 16.

Woman facing jail for thefts

A WOMAN who carried out two thefts on vulnerable, elderly victims in Welshpool has been told she faces jail.

Catrina Thomas, 39, of Bronybuckley, Welshpool, stole a purse containing £20 from an elderly woman in the town's One Stop store and also took a purse from the home of an 87-year-old wheelchair user before withdrawing £278.35 from their Post Office account.

Thomas appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday for sentencing, but the bench decided it did not have sufficient powers to deal with the case as they can only impose a maximum six-month jail sentence. Thomas was found guilty at a trial last month of burglary on June 16 when she entered a flat in Dolyfelin, Welshpool and took a purse. She was also found guilty of fraud relating to an incident on June 18 when she withdrew the money from the Post Office account.

She admitted a charge of theft relating to taking the purse containing £20 from Katherine Evans in One Stop, Broad Street, on July 27 and admitted a charge of failing to surrender to custody.

Helen Trench, prosecuting, said that on June 16 last year Thomas and her mother, who has since died, entered the home of wheelchair user Margaret Bailey, 87. She said: "They came in asking where Janet was and Mrs Bailey did not know. "They looked around and left and it wasn't until a few days later that Mrs Bailey saw her purse had been taken. After carrying out checks, it was noticed that on June 18 the balance had been withdrawn from a Post Office account."

CCTV showed the defendant and her mother taking the money.

Robert Hanratty, for Thomas, said his client had experienced a difficult upbringing and was dependent on alcohol.

Clive Cooper, chairman of the bench, said: "We think only an immediate custodial sentence will do, but we do not feel that we have sufficient powers to sentence her."

Thomas will appear at Mold Crown Court for sentencing on February 28. She was given bail until that date.

Robert Hanratty, for Thomas, said his client had experienced a difficult upbringing and was dependent on alcohol.

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This brings the footfall of Welshpool up, which is what we are trying to do."

"It is going to cost the town council but it is in the budget."

He said keeping the toilets open could help to increase the amount of footfall in the town.

"By keeping the toilets open they will be the last ones before you get to the coast," he said.

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A trip back in time at town hall



Preparing for the evening was Mike Breeze, from Rainbow Records.

RAINBOW Records of Welshpool will be transporting the Town Hall back in time with an 80s themed 'Party Nite'.

Tickets have just gone on sale for the event which will feature all the big hits from the 1980s. You can expect music from the likes of Bon Jovi, Kylie, Tina Turner and Belinda Carlisle.

While fancy dress is optional there will be a prize for the best dressed dancer from the

era. Promoter Mike Breeze said: I am looking for party people who will dance all night and relive those great musical memories from a great decade of music."

Party tickets are on sale at £50 for groups of 10 or individual tickets are £10 each from Rainbow Records in Welshpool Market Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm start.

For more information call 01686 640557.

Rail walk planned to mark heritage

A WALKING trail could soon be created along the route trains once took through Welshpool.

Local historian Alan Crowe has applied for funding to help him create a trail following the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway line.

He wants to have murals created at certain points along the route along with information panels and old pictures.

Mr Crowe believes the project could cost about £4,000 to complete and he has already made an application for a grant.

He said: "A lot of people, locals and visitors don't realise that the train once passed through the town. There are no tell-tell signs."

"A few years ago the town council looked at the possibility of bringing the train back into the town. This was deemed impossible so I suggested the idea of the trail."

He is now looking for people with memories of the train coming through the town so he can add this information in the trail. He wants to create an information booklet as well and is looking for artists to create the murals.

He said 2013 will see the railway celebrate its 50th anniversary as a preserved railway. Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/investment/wll-r-town-trail-1537 or call Mr Crowe on 07782 166342.

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From Welshpool to work on new TV comedy show

by Graham Breeze

A NEW ITV comedy show which has been earning glowing reviews from television critics is produced by a Welshpool woman.

Great Night Out, which is shown on Friday nights and stars Ricky Tomlinson, has been earning rave reviews – thanks in part to Angela Sinden, who was born and raised in Welshpool.

Miss Sinden, 34, spent 11 years growing up on the town's Oldford Estate, saying they were some of the happiest days of her life.

After leaving the area, Angela began a five year stint on Channel 4 hit series Shameless, working her way up to script editor.

She then held a similar role at Coronation Street for a year before joining Hat Trick Productions, the company behind Great Night Out.

Great Night Out runs over the next four weeks on Friday nights at 9pm and follows four mid-30s mates as they enjoy a weekly boys' get-together in Stockport.

As they help each other through romantic, work and family crises, they invariably create much bigger problems to solve.

Angela said: "It was a very tough and challenging show to produce but lots of fun."

"We filmed from January to March last year before post production ran from July through to October."

"Some days we'd spend all day shooting in a pub, other days we'd be out on a muddy farm waiting for the rain to stop so we could get some shots done in between downpours. But obviously, coming from Welshpool, I had good



Angela Sinden, from Welshpool.

training for both settings. The show is not my idea but it is a brilliant idea and setting which seems almost obvious now, like someone should've done it before.

"I think it's a world and a situation that we all know very well; it's instantly recognisable and relatable."

"There will be people watching at home thinking 'I'm sure this character/story/pub is based on me and mine'

– but honestly, it's not. Some of the lingo may seem very familiar but that's as far as any similarities to real-life characters go. There's a line in episode one where one character calls another 'mouth' – that does sound very Welshpool and makes me smile every time I hear it."

Michael Sinden, Angela's dad, still lives in Welshpool and said: "I am very proud of her. This series is really good."

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Campaigners keep up fight to halt pylon network plan

CAMPAIGNERS are continuing their battle against National Grid plans which could see pylons carrying power lines across a large area of Shropshire and Mid Wales.

The power company wants to build a 400,000 volt electricity line across the Shropshire border to feed the electricity generated from wind farms in Mid Wales into the national power network.

Members of groups Bwlch-Y-Cibau and Peniarth Residents Against Windfarm Developments (BRAWD) and Montgomery Against Pylons (MAP) groups, who oppose National Grid plans, met at Bwlch-y-cibau, in Powys, to update residents on the campaign.

Despite snowy conditions the meeting still went ahead with guests Glyn Davies, the MP for Montgomeryshire and chairman of MAP Jonathan Wilkinson.

Mr Wilkinson said: "I think that the people who attended the meeting felt it was worthwhile."

"We are not prepared to co-operate with National Grid. We don't want pylons on our land."

"We are making a stand against them and we are slowing things down by not co-operating."

He said the meeting also heard about a future enquiry into the wind farm, from which the power lines would travel, which is expected to take place in June.

Mr Wilkinson said he spoke about the recently launched MAP fund, set up to help raise cash for the public enquiry.

He said: "There will be lots of fundraising events coming up and others happening throughout the summer."

Jane Taylor, a spokesperson from National Grid, said the power company had had some correspondence with BRAWD.

She said: "They did send us their response to the public consultation. We are in contact with the community council in the same area and provide them regular updates and we offer to go along and see them and talk to them."

There are plans for the food chain to eventually be joined by a Starbucks.

A spokesman for KFC said: "We would welcome any applications via www.kfc.co.uk/join-us, and we look forward to welcoming local residents to the restaurant soon."

by Graham Breeze

Opening date for town KFC

HIGH Street chain KFC plans to open a drive-through in Oswestry by late spring, creating 45 jobs for the town.

The KFC will be built at the Oswestry Gateway development, near the town's Mile End roundabout, and it will open for business in May.

KFC bosses have started to advertise for staff, including an assistant restaurant general manager and team leaders.

Martin Anderson, chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, said: "It's obviously good news that new jobs will be created around the town and we should be pleased that local investment is taking place."

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Buggy walk in aid of hospice



Nicola Davies with Samuel Edwards, getting ready to raise funds for the hospice. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

PARENTS with youngsters in buggies can keep fit and help raise money for a hospice, by walking around Lake Vyrnwy later this month.

Nicky Davies, 21, from Oswestry wants to raise much needed funds for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Cheshire as part of her entry into a beauty pageant.

A charity bag pack had to be cancelled because of the snow and Nicky is now hoping people will sponsor her or join in with the walk around the lake on February 10 at 11am.

The young barber, who works at Barber Shop 2 in Chapel Court, is taking along her one-year-old nephew, Sam Edwards, for the walk of about 10 miles.

"We are hoping that other people will join us, sponsor us, or even donate some food for a sharing picnic," she said.

She is taking part in the Crown and Glory beauty pageant on February 24.

Visit www.justgiving.com/nicola-davies or email nicky-davies1@hotmail.co.uk

Work on homes is back on track after four years



Properties on sale at Wat's Meadow.

WORK has now re-started on a Gobowen housing development that has been on hold for over four years and the doors have opened on two new showhomes.

Shrewsbury-based Fletcher Homes were well into a development of 124 new homes at Wat's Meadow when the bank funding the development was placed into administration and work had to be put on hold.

"The good news is that this issue has been completely resolved and work has recently recommenced," said Fletcher Homes chairman, Clive Benfield.

"We're delighted that the problem with funding is behind us and Wat's Meadow is well and truly back on track."

The development has a choice of designs available from £154,495, with parking and £161,495 with a garage and comprises two, three and four bedroom homes and two bedroom bungalows.

The sales centre is open Friday to Monday from 10am to 4pm. Call 01691 679490. For viewings on other days call 01743 267020.



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Community group disbands after bid to save old school

Club puts out plea for new membership

Pair complete mountain trek



Jack Roberts and Kat Morgan

JACK Roberts and Kat Morgan returned from their trip to climb Mt Kilimanjaro last week, writes Simon Botley.

The pair successfully completed their eight-day trek to the summit of the world's highest free standing mountain. Jack, a professional golfer and golf instructor for Mid Wales Golf Academy from Maesbrook near Oswestry, said: "It was a really great experience and I'm really pleased to have been able to tick something so ambitious off my bucket list. The most surreal part for me was how quickly the landscape and temperatures around us changed."

"We went from rainforest to glacier and 30 degrees celsius to minus 10 in the space of 4,000 metres. I got a headache at around 5,200 metres, which was an effect of the high altitude, but there was never any point when I felt as though I wasn't going to be able to make it to the top."

That top is a dizzying 5,895 metres above sea level, a challenge that the pair took on in order to raise money for Lingden Davies Cancer Research.

The current total stands at £2,672 with any donations still being gratefully received. People can do so by visiting this website: <https://www.justgiving.com/JackandKat>

Kat, who is from Guilsfield and has previously raised more than £16,000 for the charity, works for Consensus International in Oswestry. She said: "The highlight was definitely reaching Uhuru Point at the top of the mountain. It was just after sunrise and it was beautifully clear and sunny and made all of the effort worthwhile."

"I'd just like to say thank you so much to everybody who has taken the time to sponsor us so far. We really appreciate it and the money is going to a really good cause."

Church group gives its blessing to Muslim venue

A SHROPSHIRE Christian church group has given its blessing to proposals to establish Oswestry's first Muslim centre.

One hundred people have so far written to Shropshire Council both for and against the plans by Oswestry Muslim Society to turn a former Presbyterian church on Oswald Road into a prayer centre.

Among the supporters is the Churches Together in Shropshire group.

Ged Cliffe from the group said in its letter of support: "It is the policy of Churches Together in Shropshire to support people of goodwill of other faiths and this letter has the backing of the leaders of the main Christian denominations in the county – bishops, moderators, Methodist district chairmen."

"I realise that this communication may be too late for the formal planning process, but we wanted to place our support on record."

Out of the 100 people who have written to

Screening of The Hobbit at town venue

THE Hobbit will be screened in Oswestry later this month.

To celebrate half term film screening company Kinokulture will be showing The Hobbit An Unexpected Journey.

It will be shown in the Attfield Theatre in The

Guildhall, on Bailey Head, on February 16 from 7.30pm.

This is first of a trilogy of films adapting the popular book The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien.

The adventure follows the journey of a Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who is swept into

an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome dragon Smaug.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 16 year olds and can be bought by calling 0845 2500157.

Doors open at 7pm and it will be a 2D film.

A COMMUNITY group set up to save a former village school from possible demolition has folded.

Maesbury Primary School was closed in July last year and some members of the community feared it could be sold off to developers.

In a bid to keep it as a centre for community use plans were made to form a committee group last spring.

But this week the group, which is made up of about six members, has announced it will no longer carry on.

Shropshire Council estimated the current valuation of Maesbury Primary School to be about £250,000 and if villagers wanted to rent it the figure would be £25,000 per annum.

Hazel Davis, chairman of the group, said it was too big a venture for its six members to take on.

She said: "We have decided to fold. We didn't really have any community support and we were a small group."

Thank

"We did investigate as many different areas as we could but we couldn't justify the amount of money the council wanted."

"There were only six people coming along to meetings and we couldn't do a big community project with that."

"I would like to thank everybody who came."

She said although the committee had disbanded its members were still interested in

by Graham Breeze

what the future holds for the school building and would be watching out for any proposed developments.

"We are going to keep a very close eye on applications," she said.

"We are going to be watching it like a hawk."

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow said: "I would like to thank all those involved in trying to see whether the school building could be bought under the right to buy scheme for the community."

"I know they have had a number of meetings to look at the viability of the building and a survey was undertaken to seek the views of the local community."

"The closure of the school has been a huge blow to the community and I intend to keep a close eye on what happens to the building in the future."

BUSINESS people wanting to give something back to the community are being urged to become Rotarians.

Members of the Borderland Rotary Club, in Oswestry, take part in a range of events and voluntary opportunities throughout the year.

There are 45 people in the club from all walks of life and from a wide range of industries and businesses.

They would now like to be joined by younger members from the area.

Michael Tomley, Borderland Rotary Club president and DPA surveys director, said members of the club had been involved in a number of town activities, including the torch light procession on Bonfire Night, the annual Christmas parade and running local charity events to raise money for disaster hit countries.

They are also organising the 20th annual Dai-Pak Mountain Bike Challenge.

Mr Tomley said: "At the

same time we have had a huge amount of fun and run a wide range of social activities."

He said Rotary was open to all and the current membership represented a cross-section of local businesses.

"Rotary is a big story," he said. "Our members change lives, help communities and make the world a better place."

"We need more business people, particularly younger people, to bring new ideas into our organisation."

"I would invite potential members to come to one of our meetings and find out for themselves what we are about with a combination of lively banter and good quality speakers."

Borderland club meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel. The dress code is smart casual.

For more information about the Borderland club and what it has done in the last year visit www.borderlandrotary.co.uk



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TAKE the guesswork out of serving the perfect romantic meal this year by following the choices of the UK's leading wine experts.

Finding the perfect wine match this Valentine's Day has never been easier thanks to What Food What Wine? the UK's first wine and food pairing competition.

A panel of judges, including married Masters of Wine Susie Barrie and Peter Richards from BBC1's Saturday Kitchen, tasted wines from around the world to find the best matches for the UK's favourite meals, including the ultimate Valentine's Day dinner.

They discovered a £4.50 Sauvignon Blanc from supermarket Asda, that was a wow with smoked salmon; a Waitrose Shiraz dubbed 'fantastic' with steak and chips; as well as a popular budget Mosato called 'heavenly' with strawberries and cream.

A Chilean Sauvignon Blanc (Luis Felipe Edward Reserva, 2011, £4.50, Asda) beat competition from around the world to be crowned the 'best match with smoked salmon'.

When it came to the main meal of rump steak and fries a robust Australian Shiraz from Waitrose (Reserve Shiraz St Hallett, 2010, £9.99) came out on top.

And an American Moscato, from the popular vineyard Barefoot, scooped the crown as the ultimate match with strawberries and cream. Judges called the Barefoot Moscato NV, £4.99: "Heavenly! A really fruity, creamy match, the sweetness is delicate and enriching without cloying."

Judges include the Guardian's wine writer Fiona Beckett and BBC Good Food's Sarah Jane Evans, MW, as well as delicious wine critic Susie Atkins.

For the full results visit www.whatfood-whatwine.com



WFWW judge Susie Barrie, right, with WFWW food director Jo Pratt and fellow WFWW judge Peter Richards.

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AN Oswestry church is on the lookout for boys and girls to join its choir.

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The scheme has been designed to develop young voices from starting to sing to managing the change which takes place as the adult voice develops. "There is plenty of evidence that singing is good for you both in terms of health and wellbeing, but for young people the question is where do they go to learn both vocal technique and musicianship," said Mike Donkin,

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director of music at St. Oswald's. "The young voice is a delicate thing and needs careful nurturing, it is very easy to inflict lasting damage. One of the best places is a good church choir.

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NEWS

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NEWS

in brief

Council wants to reduce fall injuries

COUNCIL bosses in Mid Wales are teaming up with the local health board and voluntary bodies to try and reduce the number of trips and falls in the county.

Powys County Council said every year residents, particularly the elderly, suffer painful and costly trips and falls and organisations are joining forces to reduce the risk by identifying potential hazards on roads and pavements.

Problems can be reported during the day on 0845 602 7035 or via Careline on 0845 054 4847 for out-of-hours emergency reports

Inquest opened on pensioner, 81

AN inquest has been opened on 81-year-old Michael Anthony Ashton, whose body was found in the grounds of Ellesmere College on December 16.

Mr Ashton, of Church Street, Ellesmere, was reported missing from home on July 7.

Shropshire coroner Mr John Ellery opened an inquest for evidence of identification before adjourning the hearing to a date to be fixed.

Advice on offer

POLICE in Mid Wales will hold advice surgeries on February 8 at Guilsfield Spar 10am, Llanymynech's Ashfield Stores, 11am, and Lewis's Garage, Llandrinio, at noon.

Young bookworms offered chance to meet top author

CHILDREN in Oswestry are being given the chance to meet best-selling author Michael Morpurgo when he attends the town's literary festival later this year.

Mr Morpurgo, whose works include War Horse, Private Peaceful and Kensuke's Kingdom, will formally open Oswestry's fourth annual Festival of the Word on March 10.

Now festival organisers have launched a competition for seven to 11-year-olds with a top prize of a meeting with the writer when he visits.

The competition is being run by Oswestry library and the Oswestry Rotary Club and has been called 'Dear Mr. Morpurgo...'

To take part youngsters will have to write a letter to the former children's Laureate telling him which of his books is their favourite and why.

As well as meeting Mr Morpurgo the winner will also be given some book tokens.

Heather Rodenhurst, Oswestry librarian, said: "The library works closely with the Oswestry Rotary Club's Vocational Literacy project and was delighted when their spokesperson, Stephen Thomas, generously offered to sponsor the prizes for this wonderful Oswestry LitFest competition."

"The winner will receive a £30 Booka Bookshop token and be invited to meet and chat with Michael Morpurgo when he appears at the Festival's signature event at The Marches."

The Rotary Club has also offered prizes for the second and third place winners and the runners up. These will be Booka Bookshop tokens worth £20 and £10.

Mrs Rodenhurst said: "It's a fantastic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get close to an author who is such a popular and hugely influential figure in children's literature."

Competition entry forms are available from Oswestry Library, Booka Bookshop in Church Street and Morris Cook Accountants in Salop Road, Oswestry. The closing date for entries is February 15. More details at www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk

by **Graham Breeze**

Kathryn's climb to aid charity

A WOMAN has vowed to climb the highest mountain in Africa after discovering her dad has been diagnosed with cancer.

Kathryn Price, 41, from Ruyton-XI-Towns, wants to climb Mount Kilimanjaro on March 14 to raise cash for charity Orchard.

The charity works to fund research into all three male specific cancers, as well as helps to raise awareness.

Ms Price said she wants to complete the challenge to raise £1,000.

She said: "This challenge was spurred on after I discovered my dad had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in March 2011."

"It was a bit of a shock for us as he didn't tell us for a while. He is responding well to treatment thankfully but it has made us as a family more aware of how little is known and how important it is to raise awareness."

Anyone wanting to make a donation or sponsor Ms Price can visit www.justgiving.com/Kath-Price

Tree trunk provides a cosy spot



Rob McBride from Ellesmere, who keeps warm in trees during the cold weather.

WHILE a lot of people shelter from the snow by wrapping up warm or sitting in front of a fire, one man has found a warm and cosy way to use the inside of a tree.

Rob McBride, of Ellesmere, who admits he is fascinated by trees, decided to use an elderly beech tree to shelter from a snow storm on his way to work.

Mr McBride, better known as Shropshire's 'tree hunter', stopped off in the tree in Wat's Dyke on his way to Wrexham on Friday.

He said: "I was going to do a BBC interview for Radio Wales and I wanted to check some trees on Wat's Dyke."

"The weather was getting heavy so I decided to take refuge in the tree. I would say it was about 200 to 250 years old. It was very warm in there. These types of trees could save your life. If you are in the middle of nowhere and it is freezing cold I would say try it for yourself."

"I could have stood up in there. They make very good habitats. You often find lots of creatures in trees such as these. I have even had a kip in a couple of trees."

Aircraft club plan decision delayed

A DECISION on whether a model aircraft club should be able to fly their planes in a field near Oswestry is likely to be delayed after the applicants claimed they have been asked to re-apply for planning permission.

But Oswestry and District Model Flying Club says even if its new application is turned down by Shropshire Council, they are 'positive' they will win their case on appeal.

Shropshire Council had hoped to determine the group's planning application to be allowed to fly their aircraft from a farmer's field in Maesbury year round by the end of this month.

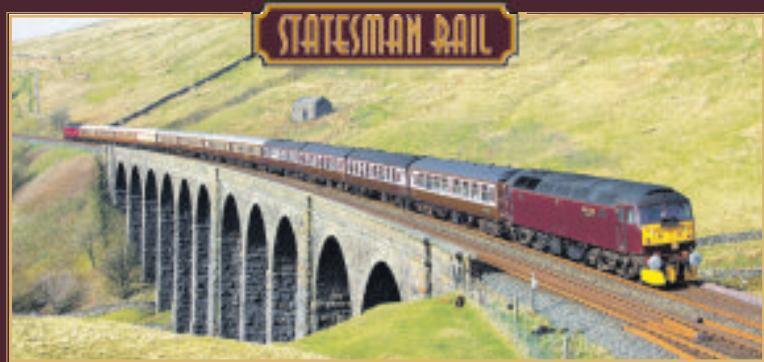
But group chairman Mervyn Davies said the decision would be delayed by the re-application.

He said: "The council planners say the first application is not right. One thing they say is that the trailer we use is not located in the right place on the plans."

"Another thing is a question about the location of the car park we use."

"I will re-apply and I am waiting the paperwork to come through."

Mr Davies said he was sure the club would win approval even if the Shropshire Councilors rejected the plan, which has attracted objections from eight people worried about alleged noise problems.



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NEWS**NEWS**

in brief

Jury clears man on GBH charge

A MAN who broke his friend's jaw in a fight has been cleared by a jury of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

The jury of nine men and three women accepted Anthony Kelly's claim that he had been acting in self-defence when he punched Shaun Jones outside Mr Jones' home in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry.

Kelly, from Heol Offa, Coedpoeth had denied GBH and was found not guilty at Shrewsbury Crown Court last Friday.

The court had earlier heard a fight broke out following an argument on February 25 last year. But Kelly insisted Mr Jones threw the first punch.

Get to grips with glass painting

PEOPLE are invited to a craft session at a gallery in Oswestry.

Qube, in Oswald Road, is holding a glass painting workshop on February 5 from 2pm to 4pm.

People will be given step-by-step instructions and will start by painting a flat shape in vibrant colours.

Trailer is stolen

A TRAILER has been stolen from outside a house near Welshpool. The 4ft flat bed trailer was taken from the side of the A490 at Blwch-Y-Cibau sometime between the January 18 and 22.

Questionnaire will uncover true views on pylon plans

RESIDENTS are to have their say on controversial plans which could see pylons carrying power lines through Shropshire and Mid Wales.

A community council has created its own questionnaire on National Grid's plans to build a 400,000 volt electricity line to feed electricity generated from wind farms in Mid Wales into the national power network.

Its proposed route is from an electricity substation at Cefn Coch, west of Welshpool, via Llansantffraid, south of Llanymynech and Oswestry to Lower Frankton. There it will join the National Grid's main network.

by Graham Breeze

Musicians to star at festival

YOUNG musical talent will be on show at Oswestry Youth and Music Festival this year.

The event will be held in the town from February 28 until March 3.

It has been running for the past 35 years and this year there are a number of trophies and certificates ready to be handed out to this year's most talented competitors.

Christ Church and the Methodist Church, both in Chapel Street, will be the venue for the event, which is expected to draw people in from Shropshire, North Wales and beyond.

There will be 74 classes in the competition for youngsters aged nine and under to 21 years old and under.

The music festival has a twitter account @OsYouthMusicFestival and is also on Facebook.

Information will also be put on the Oswestry Town Council Website www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk

It has not yet been decided whether the lines should go overhead or underground and now National Grid is carrying out studies and surveys to help with this decision.

Members of Carregghofa Community Council say they have created a questionnaire for every household in the Welsh side of Llanymynech to complete.

There are five questions asking residents if they supported proposals for wind farms to be built in mid Wales and if they approved of the plans for the 400kV power line.

It also asks if residents had been informed or consulted on vehicle transportation, if daytime disruption on the A483 would affect travel plans and if they are concerned the proposals would affect tourism, the local economy and property values?

Councillor Martin Clare, from Carregghofa Community Council, said: "Once we have the information back it will be analysed and used at the public inquiry as evidence. We feel we have not been fully consulted, particularly in Carregghofa, nobody has talked about the transport issues."

Jane Taylor, a spokesperson for National Grid, said the community council had been invited to talk to National Grid. She said: "Once the questionnaire is completed we would be very pleased to meet the council and discuss the findings with them."

Anyone with questions is invited to call 0800 019 5325 or visit www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection

Warm welcome for trio



David Rooney, Lara Nest and Angus Bowmes at Oswestry School on a gap year.

OSWESTRY School has welcomed three new assistant members of staff, all who hail from the Southern Hemisphere and are taking gap years.

Lara Nest, David Rooney and Angus Bowmes will be supporting staff at both the senior school and prep department during their year at Oswestry School.

Lara has just finished her studies at Mackillop Senior College in Port Macquarie in Australia while David comes from St Paul's Collegiate in Hamilton, New Zealand.

Angus comes from Knox Grammar School, Sydney, Australia.

They will replace a group of 'Gappies' who spent a term at Oswestry School.

In addition to helping out in the PE department, they will be assisting in the music and drama departments, in particular with the forthcoming production of Oliver which takes place on March 15-16.

Meanwhile the school is also celebrating the achievements of two lower sixth pupils Jamie McMurray and Matteo O'Mahoney from Oswestry School who have been selected take part in an Interski scholarship training scheme.

Together with eight other skiers from schools in the UK they spent one week in Pila, Italy, being sponsored to take the British Association of Snowsports Instructors Level 1 course.

School is delighted to receive top marks

STAFF and pupils at Shropshire's only all-through school, which teaches children from the ages of three to 16, are celebrating after being told it had topped the county's league table for pupil progress.

St Martins School came out on top of the value added scores league table.

The process is used to compare schools that select pupils according to academic excellence and schools in areas of deprivation and low aspiration.

It means that no matter what ability a child has when they join the school, they make more progress there than they would at any other school in Shropshire.

Principal Nigel Keates said: "I am delighted with this result."

"This builds upon our good Ofsted inspection in June, our GCSE results in August that saw 92 per cent of students achieve five or more A*-C grades, and the fact that as a small school we are able to offer individualised work and support to ensure all students achieve the very best they can."

St Martins School was formed in September after a merger between the village's Rhyn Park secondary school and its Ifton Heath primary.

Work is continuing on plans to build a £3.14 campus on the Rhyn Park site to accommodate all its pupils.

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Mark Coleman and Christopher Llewelyn get down to business at J A Milton Upholstery Supplies.

Advertisement feature

J A Milton Upholstery Supplies based on the Ellesmere Business Park has been in the upholstery trade for 24 years.

The company was established in 1989 by Joan Milton as furniture renovators. Since then it has become masters in the upholstery trade.

It later became established as a highly knowledgeable supplier of materials and fabrics both to the trade and the DIY market.

These days one of the most important divisions of the company is its 'School of Excellence'.

The school boasts lessons in upholstery, car trimming, loose cover making, and curtain making.

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They have cleverly designed this qualification course to slot around your current regular job, allowing your old career to flow easily into your new one of upholstery.

If you would like to chat more about any of their courses they have an open day on Saturday, April 13, from 11am until 1pm.

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NEWS**NEWS**

in brief

Cemetery archives are focus of grant

A LOTTERY funding application for £60,000 has been made as part of a project to ensure Oswestry cemetery's archives are available to the public to use in future years.

Oswestry Town Council says it would allow the cemetery's archives, which date back 150 years, to be conserved and catalogued.

The council's application for funding support to Heritage Lottery Fund was presented to councillors on Wednesday.

Oswestry councillors approved the wording of the application.

Dancing dates at town church

CIRCLE dance sessions will be taking place in Oswestry.

They will run for an hour every Thursday, starting at 9.30am, from February 7 until March 21 at the Parish Centre, in St Oswald's Church.

People can learn diverse traditional dances from many countries including the Balkans, Greece, Israel and France.

Car falls on man

A MAN became trapped underneath his car when it slipped off a jack. The man had been working on the car in Barber Close, Oswestry, at about 7.20pm last Thursday. He was freed by a paramedic.

Patients fail to keep dates

STAFF at Shropshire's orthopaedic hospital have made 'Herculean' efforts to get into work in the cold snap – but are being let down by patients failing to turn up.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital bosses say they are disappointed that last month several operations had to be cancelled because patients failed to attend on the day of surgery, sometimes for 'trivial' reasons.

Hospital chief executive Wendy Farrington-Chadd told a trust board meeting missing appointments had contributed to the hospital's performance level falling during December.

by Iain St John

Sign planned at war graves

A SIGN will be put up at Oswestry Cemetery to show it holds war graves, town councillors have said.

The authority, which runs the cemetery, was approached by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Councillors agreed to the bid after hearing it was part of plans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War.

Councillors were told although people know of the British and Commonwealth war graves in France and Belgium, there are thousands of sites in Britain which also held war graves.

Oswestry Cemetery has a war graves section and local war hero Squadron Sergeant Major Harold Whitfield, who won the Victoria Cross in the Great War, is buried there.

The war graves commission said it would put up the sign and cover its maintenance.

Councillors gave their blessing as long as any necessary planning permission was gained.

We're clocking up the miles



In fancy dress are back left to right Sonia Fraser, Ann Paterson, and Mel Grindrod, with Steve Fenn, centre, on the bike and front, left to right, are Becca Maund, Sam Teare and Ben Stokes. **Picture: Simon Williams.**

STAFF at Oswestry's Victoria Road Co-operative food store have been 'rocking around the clock' to mark the start of fundraising efforts for their chosen charity the Carers Trust.

To launch their next 12 months of fundraising, staff arrived at work dressed in the theme of 'Rock Around The Clock'.

The also took part in a number of activities including cycling 100 miles on an exercise bike loaned to them from Bodytech. A number of hampers were dotted around the store for lucky raffle winners. Staff have already raised £250 for Carers Trust.

They chose their fancy dress theme to highlight the 24/7 challenges that about 500,000 young people across the UK face when they are caring for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems.

Charity's catalogue collection success

A CHARITY on the Shropshire border has seen people donating more than £7,000 over Christmas to help orphans living overseas.

Staff at Dolen Ffermio, based in Llanfyllin, said they were amazed at the success of their Christmas Catalogue appeal which has beaten the year before's total by almost £2,000.

The appeal sees people offering to buy an amount of gifts for orphans in Ngora, Eastern Uganda.

Gifts are listed on a catalogue and include two chickens for £6, a female goat for £18, a year's supply of school stationery for £3 and a mosquito net for £4.

The cash is paid to the charity which then goes out and buys the items for the youngsters and their families. The Christmas Catalogue appeal has raised £7,130 this festive season.

Val Talbot, volunteer organiser, said: "We are absolutely amazed."

"Last year we were down on previous years. We thought we would not get as much this year but it is almost £2,000 more."

"We send our heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the orphans in Ngora, Eastern Uganda, whose lives will be transformed."

She said the amount raised would supply 40 orphans in 2013 with a complete package of support.

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Charming family property has paddock and stabling

Set in a fantastic rural location, The Pines, Hengoed City Lane, Oswestry, is a deceptively spacious four-bedroomed house with stabling and paddocks, standing in around 2.73 acres of land. The semi-detached property is on the market with Samuel Wood, who are seeking offers in the region of £349,000.

Accommodation comprises a porch, entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, snug/study, dining room, four bedrooms (master ensuite), bathroom, oil-fired heating, good-sized gardens, five stables and a tack room.

In more detail the entrance hall has oak parquet

flooring and an understairs storage cupboard. The through lounge includes a feature fireplace with logburner and a bricked hearth and beams. The breakfast kitchen has a Belling range, fridge, washing machine and pantry.

There is also an inner hall with quarry tiled floor and stairs to the first floor. The snug/study also has an attractive fireplace with a logburner and parquet oak floor. This flooring is repeated to the dining room, which also has an exposed stone wall, window seat and arched recess.

Upstairs, bedroom one has a stripped floor and

an ensuite shower room. Bedrooms two and three face the front while bedroom four overlooks the rear.

There is also a family bathroom with a shower cubicle, bath, wash basin and wc.

The large gardens include a paved patio, pond, extensive lawned area, vegetable garden and a shed.

There is also a wooden stable block consisting of five loose boxes with a separate tack room/store close by.

For more details contact Samuel Wood on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk



Six-bed house includes annexe and outbuildings

A six-bedroom house with an annexe, outbuildings and a half-acre paddock is for sale with Town & Country priced at offers around £299,950. With the potential for use as a B&B, The Stores, at Penybont, is ideally located in the picturesque Tanat Valley with country walks close by. The property has oil-fired central heating and the spacious accommodation includes two reception rooms, six bedrooms and an annexe with a further bedroom. There are several outbuildings which could be used for business purposes or further accommodation along with ample parking and a small paddock to the rear.

For more details call Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit the website www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Modernised bungalow is handy for local shops

Number 22 Monkmoor Road, Oswestry is a renovated detached bungalow with a newly fitted kitchen and flooring, situated close to local shops and facilities.

The three-bedroom property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co priced at £154,950 with no upward chain.

With gas-fired central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, a garage and attractive gardens.

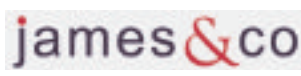
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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Offers invited on smartly appointed mid-terraced property

Number 20 Ifton Fields, St Martins, is a well appointed and deceptively spacious mid terraced village home with excellent accommodation.

The two-bedroomed property is for sale through Richmond Harvey at £114,950 with offers being invited.

It has an entrance hall, living room with feature fireplace, kitchen/dining room, re-fitted bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing where stated, driveway and a nearly landscaped rear garden.

For further information please contact Richmond Harvey on

01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

**RICHMOND
HARVEY**



Semi in sought-after location needs some TLC

A three-bedroomed semi-detached home in a sought-after position in the village of Trefonen, near Oswestry, is for sale with no upward chain through Woodhead Estates.

In need of some internal repair, 18 School Lane is on the market for offers in the region of 129,950. Accommodation comprises a kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs wc, oil-fired central heating, some double glazing, off-road parking and an enclosed rear garden.

For further information contact Woodhead Estates on

01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com

**WOODHEAD
ESTATES**



Chance to rent seven-bed rural pub with function room

An attractive country pub with residential accommodation is available to rent for £1,250 pcm.

Cefn Coch Inn, Cefn Coch, near Welshpool, has seven bedrooms, a main bar with woodburner, pool room, lounge bar/dining room with bay window and fireplace, and function room with a bar and a small stage. The property has an entertainment licence for up to 300 people, as well as oil-fired central heating and ample parking.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole

on 01938 554818 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk

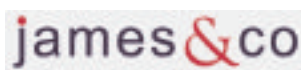
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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Character property in a wonderful location next to canal

Stable Cottage, Chirk, is a character cottage in excellent condition, perfectly situated in a canal side location. A short walk along the towpath from the renowned Thomas Telford Chirk Aqueduct, it is for sale through Town & Country at £182,500.

It has a lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, off-road parking, a garage, three brick-built outhouses and gardens.

For further information please contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com

TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel: 01691 679631



Smartly presented semi on a highly popular development

On the market priced at £149,000, number 37 Maes Y Dderwen, Llanfyllin is a delightful and well-appointed three-bedroom semi-detached home set on a relatively new and highly popular development close to the town centre.

It has an entrance hall, wc, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, master bedroom (en suite), two further bedrooms, bathroom, driveway with parking for two/three cars and gardens.

For further information please contact Halls at their Welshpool office on 01938 555552 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Halls



Secluded cottage comes with a barn and superb views

Hillside Cottage is a spacious detached country house in the village of Meifod. Set in a tranquil spot, it has superb views and well-stocked gardens and is on sale for £324,950. The property has a verandah, an L-shaped sitting room, a study, lounge with inglenook fireplace, and a sun room.

There is a fitted kitchen, a utility room and a cloakroom. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room. A private driveway leads to garages, a workshop and a large barn.

For more information please contact Norman Lloyd on 01938 552371 or visit www.normanlloyd.co.uk

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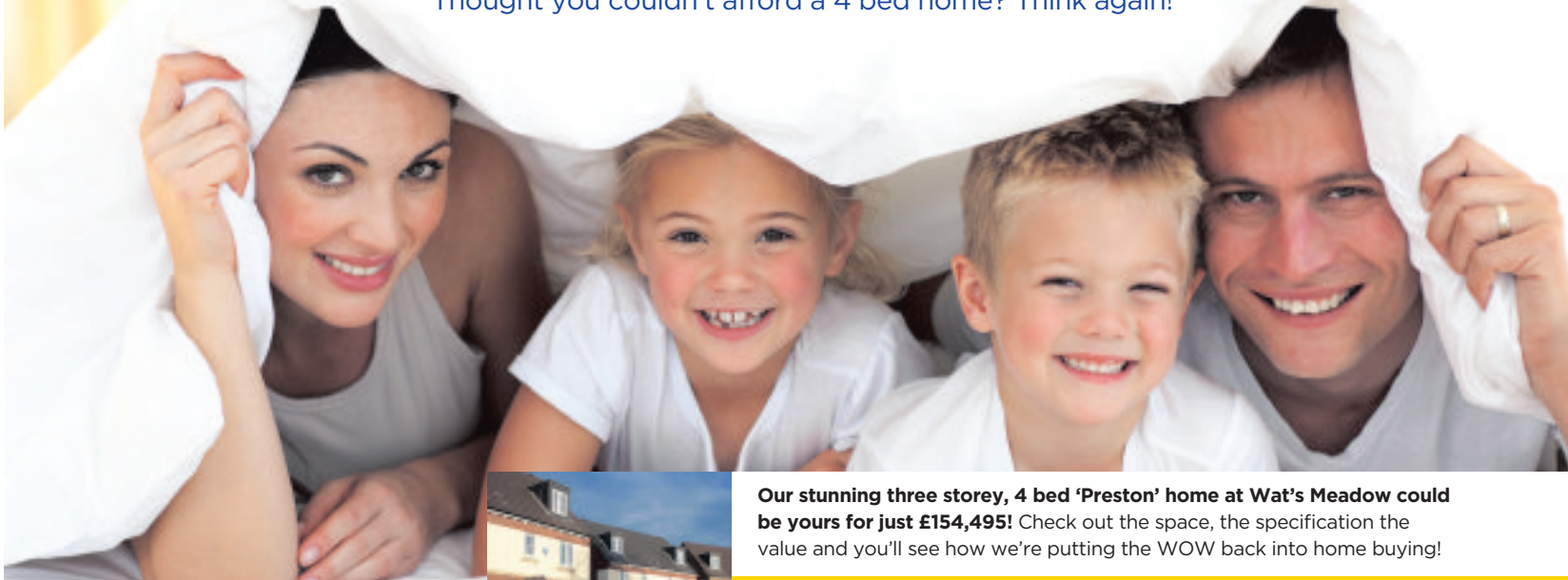
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01978 340000****NEW****Whitfield Close
Oswestry £164,995**

- A well presented 4 Bedroom Semi-Detached property situated in an established residential location within the popular market town of Oswestry.
- The property has been extended by the current owners to create spacious living accommodation including: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Family/Utility Room,
- 4 Bedrooms (Master En-Suite) and Family Bathroom.
- The property also has a good sized garden, Integral Garage, uPVC Double Glazing and Gas fired Central Heating.

**NEW - NO CHAIN****Regent Court
Oswestry £118,500**

- A well appointed two bedroom first floor apartment set within the popular purpose built retirement complex of Regent Court
- The apartment has dual aspect windows and a balcony offering views across the town together with the benefit of a Living/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite Bathroom) and separate Shower Room.
- The complex has 24 hour resident secretary facilities together with Communal Lounges & Garden, Secure Car Parking, entrance security system, lift to all floors & guest accommodation. EPC RATING C

**NEW - NO CHAIN****Ellesmere Road
St. Martins £249,995**

- A spacious and well presented 4 Bedroom House within the village of St Martins
- The property has been extensively renovated and finished to a high specification
- Large Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room & Ground Floor Shower Room
- Large Lounge contains a feature fireplace with wood burning stove
- 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) together with a Large Family Bathroom
- Gravel driveway provides ample parking, a good sized lawned garden
- New double glazing and Gas Central Heating system. EPC Rating D

**NEW PRICE - NO CHAIN****Park Street Close
Oswestry £129,950**

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Semi Detached Bungalow
- Situated in a much sought after cul de sac close to the town centre
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Conservatory, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Family Bathroom, 2 Ground Flr Bedrms, 1st Flr Bedrm with En-Suite WC
- Double glazing, Gas C/H, easily maintained gardens. EPC Rating D

**NEW****Cross Street
Oswestry £110,000**

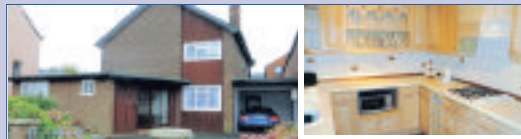
- A well located Retail Shop Premises situated in a prime location in the Town Centre
- A large Shop/Sales Area together with Rear Shop and Sales, Storeroom
- Two First Floor Rooms, WC and Kitchen, Four Second Floor Rooms
- Rear Yard and separate Rear Pedestrian access. Commercial EPC D

**NEW PRICE****Meadow View
Oswestry £225,000**

- A most comfortably appointed and generous Detached House
- Situated in a prime location next to Oswestry Cricket Club
- Set in good sized gardens and grounds
- Ent Hall, Sitting Rm with Bay, Dining Rm, Kitchen, Rear Lobby/Cloaks
- Three excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Gas C/H
- Garage, delightful private gardens to rear with a south facing aspect
- EPC Rating F

**NEW PRICE - NO CHAIN****West Place
Gobowen £114,000**

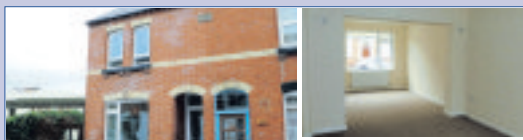
- A spacious and well presented 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property situated within an established area in the popular village of Gobowen.
- A well maintained kitchen and bathroom, Gas C/G, D/G
- Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Off-road parking to the front and a good size rear garden. EPC Rating C

**NO CHAIN****Lower Brook Street
Oswestry £185,000**

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Detached House set within a popular location convenient to the town
- Wide Entrance Hall leading to an Inner Hall, Cloaks, "L" Shaped Sitting Room/Dining Room
- Living Room, Study/Bedroom 4, Further Bedroom 5, Kitchen, Utility, Rear Lobby
- Three First Floor Bedrooms, Large Family Bathroom.
- Gas C/H, D/G, carport, patio garden to rear. Rarely available in this location. EPC Rating F

**Ellesmere Road,
St Martins £249,995**

- Semi detached 3 bedroom family house
- Restored and extended by the current owners to a high specification
- Double Glazing throughout, Gas C/H
- Under floor heating to part of the ground floor
- Large garage block with storage room
- Well maintained gardens. EPC Rating D

**NO CHAIN****King Street
Oswestry £106,000**

- A superbly appointed and extensively refurbished End-of-Terrace Residential House that has been carefully restored by the present owners and is convenient to all facilities close to the centre of the town
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing, Enclosed Patio to the Rear. Ideal for investment or first time purchase. EPC Rating D

**Watkin Drive
Oswestry £395,000**

- A most impressive and spacious Detached House set within an exclusive and spacious development for only five executive homes
- Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Sitting Rm with bay, Large Conservatory
- Separate Dining Rm, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Gallery Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Rm & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens, double garage. EPC Rating D

**NO CHAIN****Llanforda Mead
Oswestry £275,000**

- A most impressive and spacious Detached Family Residence that has been extensively improved throughout by the present owners to present a delightful family home
- Entrance Porch, Wide Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, a Large Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room,
- Four Excellent Bedrms, En-Suite Shower Rm, Family Bathrm. Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens and grounds together with a double garage. EPC Rating D

**Croeswylan Lane
Oswestry £349,950**

- A most comfortably appointed & spacious Detached House
- Wide Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm, Study
- Snug, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Rear Lobby/Utility, 4 Bedrooms
- En-Suite shower & Family Bathroom
- Large Attic Room currently used for recreational purposes
- Gas C/H, double garage, patio & delightful gardens to rear
- EPC Rating E

**NO CHAIN****Maplehurst Drive
Oswestry £165,000**

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Detached Modern Bungalow in a most popular location
- Wide Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Bedroom/Dining Room, Kitchen, Two further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Double glazing, Gas fired central heating,
- Lawned forward garden with a delightful enclosed rear garden with patio designed for easy maintenance. EPC Rating E

**Willow Close
St Martins £115,000**

- A well appointed and spacious 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Large driveway to the front providing ample parking
- Large garage/workshop and a large rear garden with patio
- uPVC double glazing and electric central heating throughout
- EPC Rating D

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Yew Tree Close, Whittington

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Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry

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Associated Office at Worcester 01905 611066



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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Spacious four-bedroom house has been much improved

Laburnum House, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Oswestry is a spacious and well-presented four bedroomed family home in a popular village, which has been extensively renovated by the current owners. On the market priced at £249,995, it has a large kitchen/dining room, utility, ground floor shower room, large lounge with woodburning stove, dining room, four bedrooms, one ensuite, spacious bathroom, large gated driveway, good-sized garden, double glazing and gas central heating.

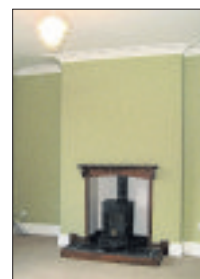
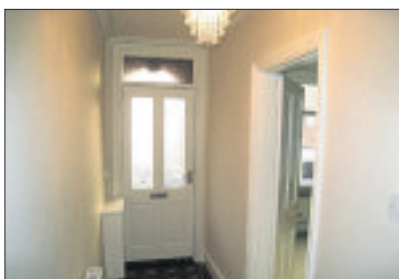
For further information please contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Modern family home in sought-after location

An attractive four-bedroomed detached family home in a sought-after location is on the market with Woodhead Estates. Number 1 Southgate Close, in Oswestry, it is for sale at a guide price of £214,950. With gas-fired central heating and a low maintenance garden, accommodation comprises an entrance hall, dining room, kitchen, living room, sitting room, rear hallway, utility, master bedroom (ensuite), two further bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and gardens to front and rear.

For further information please contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com



Refurbished end terrace handy placed for town centre

Number 2 Arundel Road is a neatly presented end terrace house which has recently been refurbished. Conveniently placed for access to Oswestry town centre, the property is on the market with Samuel Wood for offers in the region of £139,000. The accommodation includes a lounge with multifuel burner, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

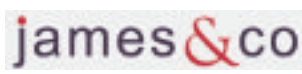
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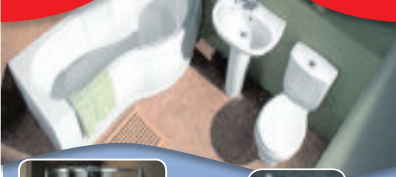
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KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, with similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400793**

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400465**

MID 80's female, young in mind, seeks male for dancing, days out, company and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401157**

JACKIE lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTm kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400451**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400949** ☺

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400263**

48YR old medium build female, seeking a little companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391241** ☺

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTm genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400199**

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks white/black male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375789**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, withm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395727**

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395717**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399245** ☺

SAM pretty petite, fit, sensual brunette, divorced, with two children, looking for genuine, tactile guy who wants to meet someone special like me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398763**

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LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399923** ☺

ANGELA green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399633**

LISA attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, well maintained 25yr old uni student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399619**

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tlc, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397579** ☺

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394121**

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394117**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395035**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 396837** ☺

SINGLE MEN

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ATTRACTIVE tall, Indian professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks female with GSOH who enjoys life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401385**

MALE 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394232**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401479** ☺

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401441**

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401431** ☺

MARTIN 5ft 10ins, 52, seeking female, 39-50 for nights out, pubs, clubs, restaurants, cinema etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401473** ☺

SINGLE 46yr old guy, seeking female, 50-65 for discreet fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394194** ☺

YOUNG 70's male, widower, own transport, active in business, likes weekends away, seeks honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401203**

RICHARD 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401145** ☺

COLIN 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400389** ☺

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HEALTHY confident, spontaneous widower, 60, likes culture, socialising, outdoors, seeks smart, affectionate, average built woman, 50-63 for mutual friendship/company. **Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401243** ☺

IAN 6ft, likes meals out, weekends away, seeks female, Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394134** ☺

IAN tall, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, genuine, loving, tender, happy go lucky, likes music, theatre, meals out, romantic nights in, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401065** ☺

DAVE happy go lucky, sociable, seeks attractive young lady, 35-40 to pamper and cook for. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401043** ☺

NEW Year new start. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, keep fit, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401013**

33YR old male, down to earth, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394176** ☺

PHIL 48, 6ft, slim, divorced, OHAC, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, seeks attractive female, 35-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401187**

FRANK tall, distinguished 68yr old mature, professional gent, sensual, tactile, seeks similar, warm, responsive lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400967**

KARL 28, black hair, brown eyes, smart, 5ft 3ins, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400953**

TALL mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401241**

PAUL 52, looking for friendship, possible relationship with someone who can make me happy in 2013. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400849** ☺

KEITH white male, 49, handsome, 6ft 2ins, seeks buxom black female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394094** ☺

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400703** ☺

GENT 54, divorced, slim, N/S, likes antique furniture, country houses, classical music, walking, seeks genuine, caring, thoughtful, sophisticated, N/S lady for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400807** ☺

GAY SINGLES

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STEVE 54 bl, non scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401225** ☺

OLDER male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man for fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401225** ☺

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391849** ☺

27YR old female, seeking no strings fun with other female, any age/nationally. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393530** ☺

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out. Sutton Coldfield and surrounding area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393381**



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NEWS

Summit
on future
of chicken
farming

THE future of egg and chicken farming in Shropshire will be under the spotlight at a conference this month.

Prices and bird health are on the agenda of the latest National Farmers Union poultry forum summit.

The event on February 12, organised by the Oswestry and Shrewsbury branches, will be held at Oswestry Rugby Club, in Park Hall.

Getting under way at 10.30am, the day will include a session for egg farmers from 11.15am and another for broiler producers from 2pm.

Farmers will hear from Elwyn Griffiths, of Oaklands Eggs, on current egg issues; Leon Furlong, of Agro Supply, about poultry shed innovation, and Ian Johnson, Poultry Farmer of the Year finalist, who will talk about working smarter not harder.

Catherine McLaughlin, NFU animal health and welfare adviser, and Kelly Watson, NFU chief poultry adviser, will also update producers on egg and broiler issues and poultry disease.

Helen Cork, NFU regional poultry adviser, said the forum coincides with pancake day so farmers are also set to flip their own pancakes and to promote the British Lion Mark on egg shells and egg boxes.

Meeting over
health hotline

A PUBLIC meeting is set to be held in Shropshire over the controversial introduction of a new out-of-hours health hotline.

The talks are to be staged by Oswestry Town Council amid concerns that the new NHS 111 service could see vulnerable patients miss out on essential care.

Dr Paul Middleton, on behalf of Oswestry's four GP practices, outlined their concerns at a council meeting.

He said the new system would be introduced on February 12 and would lead to the scaling down of the Shropdoc service. Dr Middleton said the new 111 system would see non-clinically trained staff take phone calls and follow a checklist to decide on treatment.

He warned that vulnerable people could fall through the net of NHS care and said GPs were worried the public were unaware of the changes.

Councillors echoed those concerns and have agreed to write to health secretary Jeremy Hunt and North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson.

And they called for a public meeting to be set up with 111 service bosses to discuss the issue.

Town clerk David Preston said this week that talks were still being held on when that meeting will take place and said representations were being made to Government about the matter.

Mr Preston said: "Recognising the viewpoint from Dr Middleton that the 111 service should have the opportunity to present their side of the story, it was agreed that the 111 service be invited to a meeting with town and Shropshire councillors and the GP practices in Oswestry to follow through the concerns of the local GP practices and within the discussion to allow for a public session question time."

"The council also acknowledged that this major 111 introduction will coincide with the changes to the local ambulance service and therefore with two major changes to the delivery of health care, then it will be difficult to take realistic assessments."

He said a letter from the commission 'acknowledges the UK's leading role in pressing forward on a cattle vaccine and, for the first time, recognises that we are on course to deploy a vaccine'.

"The legal and scientific process could take up to 10 years and in the meantime we will continue to use all the tools at our disposal to check the progress of this terrible disease," he said.

But legal and scientific hurdles meant a workable vaccine was still a decade away, the Secretary of State told the Commons this week.

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Pat on the back for results



Moreton Hall School pupils, from left, Georgina Latham, 17, Madeline Rolfe, 17, Laura Mercer, 16, Natalya Kahn, 17 and Teya Drew, 16. Picture: Bob Greaves.

A SCHOOL has double reason to celebrate – after receiving an outstanding inspection report and being named a top achiever in the English Baccalaureate exams.

Staff at Moreton Hall School at Weston Rhyn are delighted with the twin successes.

Principal Jonathan Forster welcomed the findings of the Independent Schools' Inspectorate report. He said: "We are particularly gratified by the inspectors' recognition that pupils' achievement is excellent, pupils' attitudes to learning are outstanding, the curriculum and extra-curricular programme are excellent, that we provide excellent pastoral care, exemplary cultural development and excellent support and guidance from all staff."

The nursery and early years in Moreton First were also classed as 'outstanding'.

Moreton Hall was ranked top in the county for the English Baccalaureate, which measures how many pupils achieve a grade A*-C GCSE in English, maths, two sciences, a language and history or geography.

Campaign
to tighten
up rules
on hedges

A CAMPAIGN to tighten up the law on hedgerows is under way following the controversy over plans to rip up seven miles of greenery in Shropshire.

Farmer Fraser Jones withdrew his application to remove the hedges on Marlington Farm, Chirbury, after hundreds of people protested. He said he had never intended to remove all the hedges but said he wanted to get rid of some to make it easier to use large machinery.

Objectors said the historic hedgerows provided vital green corridors for wildlife and helped attract tourists to the countryside.

Now an internet petition has been launched under the government's e-petition scheme calling for a change to protect hedgerows.

Rob McBride, from Ellesmere, is one of those calling for change. He is to arrange a meeting with environment secretary Owen Paterson to discuss it.

"The change of heart at Chirbury is a fantastic win for the protestors," he said.

"But we need to ensure that something like this does not happen again."

"I think this time it was the historic hedgerows that saved the day. But the legislation needs to change."

The petition can be seen at www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/44531

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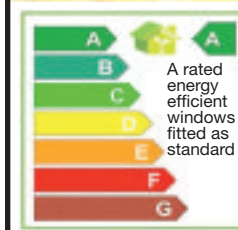


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NEWS**Volunteer to get fit by walking Trust dogs**

DOG lovers who want to do more exercise are being urged to sign up to be a dog walking volunteer.

The Cinnamon Trust, a charity organising walkers for the dogs of elderly people, has just three volunteers covering the whole of the Ellesmere and Duddeston Heath area.

The trust is urgently seeking volunteers who would be available to walk the dogs of owners who are unable to exercise their pets at the moment, maybe due to illness.

The trust is looking for people who can walk dogs for any length of time, even just 20 minutes once a week, which would make a huge difference to a house-bound dog, give comfort to the worried owner and provide the volunteer with fresh air and exercise too.

Anne Wignall, a trust volunteer for over four years, said: "There are only three volunteers covering the area now and we cannot meet all the requests for help.

"We currently have several older people on the waiting list whose dogs are not getting the exercise they desperately need.

"With a larger team of volunteers, we hope we will be able to support all the dogs that need our help."

Call for details on (01736) 757900 or e-mail admin@cinamon.org.uk

Top broadband speeds for area

POWYS will be one of the first areas in Wales to receive superfast broadband under plans by the Welsh Assembly.

The £425 million project from BT aims to allow 96 per cent of Welsh homes and businesses to have access to 'world class broadband speeds' of up to 80Mbps by the end of 2015.

The Assembly said Powys would be one of the first areas to receive the service, which Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, has hailed as a victory for Mid Wales businesses.

The funding for this project will come from several areas. The Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) office has already allocated £56.9m, while the Welsh Government has put in £58m and a further £80m will also come from the European Regional Development Fund.

In addition, BT claims to be investing £220m in Welsh 'fibre broadband' with most of that going towards this specific project.

Edwina Hart, Welsh business minister, said the project had now officially started and that a roll-out plan would be put in place soon. Mr George said: "I welcome the minister's announcement and I'm pleased that the Superfast Cymru project has now started.

Cash boost for new loo project

AN allotment group will be given £2,500 to build a disabled toilet at its site.

Oswestry Gatacre Allotments and Gardens Association asked town councillors for the grant for the project on Monday.

Group chairman Pip Pritchard had said the two allotment gardens at the Gatacre site are rented by Lorne Street Day Opportunities Centre and Mencap in Oswestry, which both have disabled members.

He said their time at the allotments is limited as there is currently no disabled toilets at the sites. The allotment group is now working on a project to get the toilet built and last month secured £10,000 from the latest round of the Big Lottery Fund's West Midlands Awards for All Scheme.

Coupled with £2,500 from the area's local joint committee and an agreement from Severn Trent not to charge £2,000 for connecting the toilet to the main sewer, allotment bosses say a £2,500 grant from the council will ensure the project can go ahead.

Important

"This is an extremely important programme for rural Mid Wales and I hope it will transform the lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of people in Powys. I believe the 'Speed Up Broadband in Montgomeryshire' campaign played a vital part in providing the strong evidence base required to enable me to lobby the Business Minister to have Powys prioritised.

"However, there is still more fine detail to be obtained regarding the exact timescales for roll-out in Powys and I'm certainly keen to keep the pressure on Government until this is fully understood.

"I will be attending a briefing next week in the National Assembly regarding the project and I have a personal meeting scheduled with the director of BT in Wales, Ann Benyon, in the next few weeks and I will be using both opportunities to question the Welsh Government and BT further."

Pupils toast recycling award

PUPILS and staff at Our Lady and St Oswald's Primary School have been celebrating after gaining the Green School Recycling Award. Pictured are Hope Ryan-Rowe, Saskia Howell, Hattie Leslie-Miller, Rory Smith, Madeleine Porritt, Sarah Coleridge, Abi Coleridge, Catherine Larkin and teaching assistant Ruth Ryan.

Meeting hears of Kenyan project

ELLESMERE Probud Club heard from Bill and Lynn Morris about their Kenya Schools Project at its latest meeting.

The couple live in Ellesmere and decided to do what they could to help children with some basic education facilities after spending a holiday in Kenya.

They collect donations of reading books, pencils, clothes and football kits.

At the meeting they showed a selection of pictures of equipment provided, happy children and improved shelter facilities.

A club spokesman said members were very impressed by their enthusiasm and work, and a retiring collection raised £117.

The next club meeting will take place on February 7 at Ellesmere Comrades Club at 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

It will feature a talk on 17th century clothing.

Students aiming to be high flyers

PUPILS in Year 8 at Ellesmere College built model planes as part of a project that enables young people to develop creativity and problem-solving skills.

Working in design teams, students wrote proposals, drew sketches and worked with models.



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BUSINESS

01691 668094

New site as clinic looks to expand



Hilary Harness: "New premises offer a real opportunity."

AFTER 20 years on Salop Road The Annandale Physiotherapy Clinic is moving to larger premises at 70 Willow Street, Oswestry.

Since setting up the business in 1991 Hilary Harness has seen the clinic's reputation grow, especially in the treatment of neck, back and sports injuries.

Having qualified in Sheffield in 1980 she eventually relocated to Oswestry and took up a position at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic.

In the early days of running the Clinic she also worked at Chirk Hospital and gained her qualifications in acupuncture.

Hilary said: "The new premises offer a real opportunity for expanding the business and I hope I'll be able to continue providing an effective and high quality service to the people of Oswestry."

Firm celebrates record year after successful expansion

AGRICULTURAL group Wynnstay has hailed record sales and profits as an expansion drive during 2012 saw its results soar.

The Llansantffraid-based firm announced a nine per cent growth in revenue to £375.7million in its full-year results, released today, helping boost pre-tax profit in turn by 13 per cent to £7.8million.

The strong growth was helped by the emergence of a new revenue stream from the Grainlink arm of the company based at Astley near Shrewsbury, which was

by Graham Breeze

Mayor praises snow clearers

OSWESTRY town mayor has expressed his thanks to staff who have helped keep the town open for business despite the weather.

The town council has received several messages of thanks to its manual team this week for its work over the weekend to make a clear access for car parks and other areas.

Snow clearance has taken place at Central, Smithfield and Horsemarket Car Parks as well as Cae Glas Park, Oswestry Cemetery, St Oswalds Parish Church and other places owned by the council.

Councillor Martin Bennett, town mayor, said: "We must thank Shropshire Council and their team for ensuring the roads and pavements have been cleared and salted."

"With such a small town council team the work they have also put in to enable our sites to be open has been most appreciated."

"We have invested in new snow clearance and salting equipment in the last couple of years and that has been proven to be value for money over the last few days."

set up following the acquisition of Wrekin Grain, and contributed to an eight per cent growth in revenue in the agricultural division to £295.1m.

The addition of a number of new stores, broadening the company's geographical reach, boosted Wynnstay's income through its retail division by 13 per cent to £80.4m.

Pleased

Chief executive Ken Greetham said: "We are very pleased. The model we have put in place for a number of years to broaden the business is coming through."

"Grainlink has made a substantial contribution to the business, it has performed very well, and that it's Shropshire-based is very nice to see."

He added that the year had been challenging because of the wet weather's effect on harvest.

The year also saw Wynnstay expand its Just for Pets chain and establish FertLink, a joint venture fertiliser business.

Mr Greetham added: "We would like to see some organic growth from the stores we have acquired next year, and will continue to search the market for suitable acquisitions. We won't just buy anything, it's about how it fits into a balanced trade."

Wynnstay manufacture and supply a



On the move. Chief executive Ken Greetham said: "We are very pleased. The model we have put in place for a number of years to broaden the business is coming through."

wide range of agricultural inputs to farmers and the rural community in Wales, the Midlands, the North West and Yorkshire and offer a diverse range of products through two core divisions, agricultural supplies and specialist retail.

A chain of 31 country supply stores stock a broad range of goods, including farm and smallholder supplies, pet and equine products, goods for garden and home and a great range of country clothing and

footwear. The agriculture division comprises of two key areas, feed and arable. Animal feeds are manufactured at Llansantffraid and Carmarthen and distributed throughout our trading area.

The arable division which covers all aspects of crop production including cereal and grass seed, fertiliser, crop protection and grain marketing operates from seed production facilities in Shropshire and Yorkshire.

Increase in injury claims is forecast

A LAW firm in Oswestry is expecting a sharp rise in the number of people wanting advice about starting a claim for injuries.

GHP Legal, in Willow Street, will be opening a free injury advice clinic from February 6 to deal with extra enquiries.

This comes ahead of legislation changes which will see claimants getting less compensation from April.

The firm already runs a free general advice clinic every Wednesday from 12pm-3pm and the new one is 5pm-7pm on Wednesdays.

John Hulme, partner and head of the personal injury department at the firm's Oswestry office, said: "New legislation will mean that the successful solicitor's fee will be paid from the compensation awarded."

"This means the days of claimants recovering 100 per cent of their compensation will be over."

Free seminar in employment law

A FREE seminar in employment law and health and safety will be held at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry on February 12.

The event will begin at 10am, following refreshments and run until 12.30pm.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Views are wanted on future of pavilion

A FEASIBILITY study has been launched as part of an initiative to breathe new life into a run down Oswestry sports pavilion.

The project to improve Gatacre Pavilion and its recreation ground could eventually see it linked to Woodside Primary School as a revamped community asset.

A questionnaire has been launched asking the community its thoughts on how it wants to see the facility improved.

The project is being spearheaded by town and county councillor Vince Hunt who says the pavilion is 'rotting away' while dog fouling discourages people from using the field.

He said one proposal would be to bring the building and the junior football pitch under the wing of the school, with the pitch fenced off to stop dogs fouling on it.

And he said the project could also bring about a new replacement pavilion, depending on funding being available.

Mr Hunt said consultants Pleydell Smithyman Limited have been asked to carry out a feasibility study to determine the need and demand for a replacement sports pavilion.

The results of the questionnaire are likely to be revealed next month.

Campaigners win 25-year overloaded sewers battle

CAMPAIGNERS have won a 25-year battle for sewerage improvement works in St Martins after officials revealed they would be investing £1 million in the area.

Welsh Water bosses told a public meeting in the village, near Oswestry, the money would be spent on improving pipeworks and the sewerage infrastructure in the village, with work starting next month.

The extensive work programme will last until March next year.

Campaigners said they were 'delighted' to have finally won their long fight.

by Graham Breeze

Worries over police shakeup

AN Oswestry town councillor has called for a meeting with the region's police commissioner to be rescheduled as soon as possible so worries over a policing shake-up can be aired.

West Mercia's new Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore was due to meet town councillors last week but the talks were cancelled because of snow.

Oswestry town councillor Heather Bickerton said one proposal could mean a reduction in police coverage in Oswestry. Among the proposed changes to come in after April will be the setting up of a 'pod' system at Wem, according to Councillor Bickerton.

She says the new set up could see Oswestry officers drive to Wem in their own cars to pick up a patrol car and drive back to Oswestry to go on duty.

Councillor Bickerton, who used to chair Oswestry's Police Consultative Committee Group, said: "My opinion is that this pod proposal is a non-starter."

More than 40 people attended the public meeting to hear Welsh Water say the £1 million investment would alleviate the sewage problems and would also cope with the demand from more houses as they are built in the village.

Problems have included toilets regularly blocking and sewerage overflowing.

Glen Pennington, from the 3 Parish Water Forum, said: "We are delighted Welsh Water is at last making this investment. We have been calling for it for so long.

Welcome

"The work will cause some inconvenience but will be well worth it in the long run because this is for the benefit of the community. It is very welcome news and we are not expecting it at all before the meeting."

Mr Pennington said Welsh Water had recognised the sewerage system was overloaded.

The problems have particularly affected two areas - at Overton Road and near the village's chip shop.

Mr Pennington said: "They said at the meeting they would have regular meetings with us so we know how things are going."

The campaigner said infrastructure improvements would allow developers get on with building more houses in the village.

And he said Welsh Water would be carrying out a three-month monitoring project at the nearby village of Weston Rhyn which has also suffered sewage problems.

Riverside comforts for otters



Ben Jones, Pete Cooper and Joe Plant of specialist contractors Wood Matters, put the finishing touches to one of a series of new otter holts on the bank.

NEW homes for otters have been built along a tributary of the River Severn as part of a scheme to improve the water quality and attract wildlife.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is working with local farmers to transform the River Perry as it flows through the Gobowen area near Oswestry.

Work has included the pollarding of several old willow trees and the timber has been used to construct of otter holts which

wildlife experts hope will encourage the animals to make their homes in the river.

Pete Lambert, of Shropshire Wildlife Trust, said: "Otters need shelter close to the river to rest and breed and sometimes this is lacking, so artificial holts can be a great substitute."

"Otters are rarely seen but we know they are in the area. We have found their distinctive droppings, which smell like freshly mown hay."

Rotarians are given world feel by pupils

YOUNGSTERS from across the county met in Oswestry as part of an international student evening.

The annual Rotary Club of Oswestry's International Students' Evening took place last week at The Walls Restaurant.

Three sixth form members from Adcote School, in Little Ness, took part in the event.

Each year it is organised so pupils from schools with international backgrounds can meet Rotarians and give a talk about their experiences.

This year the event saw five schools taking part including Moreton Hall, The Marches School, Ellesmere College, Oswestry School and Adcote School.

Adcote pupils Leoni Tenius, from Germany, Maria Gaj, from Poland, and Oluwatamilore Odunaiya, from Nigeria, presented their experiences of arriving in the UK and adapting to life in a British boarding school.

A spokesman from Adcote School said: "The Adcote girls spoke about boarding school life generally."

"Inevitably they mentioned the English weather."

"Well done to the girls for their excellent speeches, delivered confidently, that were well-received by the Rotarians."

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FEATURES & NEWS

01691 668094

NEWS

in brief

Tramway trust seeking helpers

A CALL has gone out for more volunteers to help create a new tourist attraction near Oswestry.

The Glyn Valley Tramway Trust is working to restore the former rail line that until 1935 ran from Chirk to Glyn Ceiriog. The first phase of the project, to restore the line from Pontfaen to Chirk, has already won planning permission.

Members of the trust say the project will bring a vital cash boost to the area and tie in with the nearby Llangollen Canal which has been awarded World Heritage Status.

The plan will also include a new station at Pontfaen and will see additional car parking next to Chirk's Cadbury's factory.

Blaze sparked by burning food

FOOD left unattended on a stove sparked a fire at a house in Oswestry.

The fire broke out in the kitchen of the home in Orchard Street, Oswestry, at 8.40am on Friday.

Two appliances and a 4x4 vehicle from Oswestry fire station were called to the scene, along with an operations officer from Shrewsbury.

A spokesman for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service said no-one was trapped and firefighters using breathing apparatus tackled the blaze with a hose. No-one was hurt.

Doctor's work helped save lives with ban on smoking

IN her life Doctor Dawn Milner may have helped save many lives by working on Smoking Kills, a government white paper, and the eventual UK smoking ban.

In 1997 she became the senior medical officer in the tobacco policy and cancer prevention unit at the Department of Health. Her role saw her helping with the development of the government white paper Smoking Kills and the creation of the NHS smoking cessation services.

Dawn was born in Hertfordshire in 1941 and at an early age she realised that her future career would be in medicine. She said: "I decided I'd like to be a doctor when I was 11 years old."

She was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Girls Grammar School in Barnet before being offered an unconditional place at Guy's Hospital Medical School. She began her medical training in 1960.

She said: "It was a great privilege. In my year there were about 10 women and 90 men. Things have changed a lot since the 60s."

In her last year of studies, 1965, she married, qualified and had her first child.

"The first year involved living in hospital accommodation and only seeing my baby and husband once a fortnight. It was a tough year," Dawn said.

From 1966 until 1967 she was a house surgeon and house physician at Bedford General Hospital. By the time she was 29 she had had two more children and was a full-time GP in Sandy, Bedfordshire. Here she became the senior partner and a GP trainer.

She said: "When I first worked at the practice the rota was seven days on call and seven days off. In those days we didn't have chauffeur driven cars for night work."

In 1989 her career took a different direction. She said: "I looked around for something else to do and I applied for a job as a regional medical officer at the Department of Health in London. I did this for 13 years and I loved it."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



She served in a number of policy divisions including primary care before becoming senior medical officer in the tobacco policy and cancer prevention unit and worked as the medical secretary to the Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health which in 1998 produced a report on passive smoking.

She said: "We assembled the evidence in that report which eventually contributed to the government decision to ban smoking in public places."

In 2002 she moved to Oswestry where she worked part-time in general practice for five years. She was also chairman of No Smoking Day until 2004 and continued as a member of the RCP Tobacco Advisory Group until 2006. Although mainly retired she continues to be a vice president of QUIT UK and is a freelance tobacco control advocate.

She said: "I know it's not easy to get a place to study medicine but the hard work is worth it. Stick to your dreams. I urge women to concentrate on the science subjects. Aim high and work hard."



Doctor Dawn Milner, from Oswestry.

Sponsor prize in tribute to loved one

LLANGOLLEN International Musical Eisteddfod is appealing to people to consider sponsoring a prize for one of the competitions in memory of a loved one.

Organisers of the Eisteddfod say that it would be an ideal tribute for someone who loved singing or folk dance or for anyone who enjoyed visiting the eisteddfod.

Christine Dukes, from the musical festival, said: "We are looking for people who could sponsor a prize for a competition in memory of someone who meant a lot to them."

For further information on sponsoring a prize contact Christine on christine.eddfod@international-eistdfod.co.uk

This year the eisteddfod will run from July 9 to 14 with a full programme of daytime competitions and evening concerts at the event based at the Royal International Musical Pavilion on the Llangollen to Ruthin Road.

Quiz for charity

A QUIZ will be held on February 21 in Oswestry to raise money for the RNLI charity. It takes place at the Wynnystay Hotel, starting at 7.30pm. Entry forms can be obtained by calling (01691) 652241.

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FEATURE & NEWS

01691 668094

Amazing bedtime project is discussed

THE Corbet Bed Project will be the subject of a talk in a village near Oswestry.

Ruyton-XI-Towns Local History Society will be holding its AGM on Wednesday followed by the talk.

It will be held at The Victoria Room from 7.30pm.

The AGM will include minutes of 2012 AGM, the chairman's welcome and report, treasurer's report and membership secretary's report.

There will also be an officer election.

Cate Howell will then talk about The Corbet Bed Project. The bed has loaned to Shrewsbury Museums Service from the Victoria and Albert Museum and is displayed at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.

It originally came from Moreton Corbet Castle

'The Corbet Bed Project' was a community effort to create curtains and covers for the bed.

Choir in appeal

NEW singers are invited to join a mixed voice choir in Oswestry. Oswestry Choral Society is inviting people to join them at rehearsals on Wednesdays at Moreton Hall School, in Weston Rhyn. The choir is especially interested in new male members attending the sessions which start at 7.30pm.

Unusual visitor could be a victim of mistaken identity

ON THE WILD SIDE
with Ben Waddams



LUCKILY I don't suffer from too many problems in my day to day life as artist and writer.

However I must confess, I've never quite been able to get to grips with identifying a certain species of bird - tits. This difficulty was getting me so down that I recently took some professional help on the matter.

I met up with David Farncombe of the North Shropshire Wildlife Trust and he gently enabled me to see the error of my ways. I was getting the glossy mixed up with the matt and finally my struggle with willow tits and marsh tits was concluded. Thanks, David.

However when the snow was around the other week, I felt a slight sense of déjà vu. No tits to puzzle over this time, but finches. Lots of different finches. As the cold weather encroached and the ice covered the ground, there was a sudden influx of birds in my garden and finches seemed top of the bill. Chaffinches, greenfinches, bullfinches, goldfinches and chaffinches. Hang on, there I go again. Two species of chaffinch? Surely not.

I had to confirm with my bird guide, but yes, there it was, a brambling. These pretty little birds are not exactly rare. They achieve 'green' status with the RSPCA and are rated as 'least concern'.

The reason I am not more familiar with bramblings is because they are an 'overwintering' species. They breed in Siberia and Asia and then travel to Western Europe and the UK to cash in on milder times.

In fact, they are one of the most numerous birds on the continent with up to 60 million individuals estimated. Sometimes conditions are right for vast numbers to visit our balmy winter shores and up to two million bramblings are not a rarity, however there tend to be far fewer.

They can be quite easily confused with chaffinches, not just because they exhibit similar colours, but because they are also found in close company with that species. In such circum-



A male and female brambling pay a visit to Ben's garden during the snowy spell.

stances, their white rumps can help tell them apart.

Within the species, the male and female display marked sexual dimorphism; the female being similar to the non-breeding male, but with a plainer brown head and face, and more subdued orange on the breast and shoulders. The bill is horn-coloured and the legs are brown.

They feed mainly on seeds and fruits, but also take small invertebrates and larvae.

During the summer the brambling forages in low shrubs, bushes and trees, plucking insects from the trunk, branches and foliage. It also occasionally pursues and catches insects in flight. In the winter however its tactics change entirely and it is a ground feeder.

This explains the fact that as I write there are four bramblings pecking at the large pile of seeds that the snow has uncovered in my porch.

As well as being a rather nice addition to the bird table, the brambling is also a rather long lived bird. It breeds within its first year and may live to more than 14 years old.

What with generally milder winters here in Shropshire, it may well be the case that we see more and more of this little bird.

So make a little room for the brambling this winter.

Ben Waddams is a wildlife artist. His work can be seen at the Gallery Tearooms, Princess Street, Shrewsbury.

NEWS

in brief

Silver exhibition at trust property

A NEW exhibition, Studio Silver Today, will be held at the National Trust property at Erdig in March.

The exhibition will be held to broaden awareness of today's contemporary silver movement.

Artist and silversmith Rauni Higson will be an artist in residence at Erdig between March 9 and November 2.

On most Saturdays she will be demonstrating traditional silversmithing techniques.

She will also be producing a contemporary beaker which, when finished, will be placed in a prize draw for the public to win.

Events will carry on through the year some linked to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Pupils join new volunteer group

PUPILS in Shropshire have joined a new group to help with volunteer projects in the community.

The Adcote Interact club at Adcote School for Girls in Little Ness has recently started, supported by the Borderlands Rotary Club.

About 20 senior pupils from the school have joined the club which aims to complete at least two community service projects each year.

Evie Ford has been elected president.

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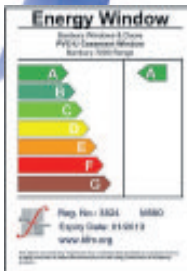
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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Money request leads to visitor centre discussion

by Graham Breeze

COUNCILLORS in Oswestry are to look at new ways of encouraging more people to visit the town's heritage and exhibition centre.

The move was agreed after the centre's management team asked for money for improvements and even suggested a new name for it to encourage more visitors.

The 15th century building, once a grammar school, houses a tourist information centre, a coffee shop, and exhibition display areas. But a report to town councillors said the management team was seeking funding to bring about further improvements and to encourage greater footfall.

Among the ideas by the management team was for A boards, at a cost of £600, to be put up to direct tourists to the centre on Church Terrace. Another idea was for the council to meet the cost of taking out a £20 advert every month in a tourism magazine.

The management team also asked for £300 to pay for second hand furniture to make a visit to the centre more comfortable.

And the team also asked if the name of the building could be changed to Oswestry Heritage and Visitor Centre.

Town councillor Christopher Schofield told a council meeting on Wednesday night he agreed more promotion was necessary but questioned the funding request and the low number of emails sent to the centre in recent months asking for information.

He said: "We have thrown money at it and thrown money at it. And quite frankly the number of e-mails is just not good enough."

Councillor Saffron Rainey added: "I think 24 emails in November seems limited."

"It is a very important historic building but perhaps not the right place for a central point for tourists."

Councillors agreed to note the report and ask a task and finish group to meet the centre management team.



Carol Roberts from Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre, with Sarah Gibbard's work of gentle watercolour studies of spring and summer flowers in the landscape, which has been on display at the centre.



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Richard
Of Hely Cross Residential Home, on September 1, 2011, aged 72 years, formerly of Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury.
Brother of Jan.
Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Friday, September 23, 2011, at 10.45am.
No flowers by request, donations if wished to SRP Schizophrenia Research Fund, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.
Inquiries please to
CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors

Husband
HALL
William
(Bill)
You are with me every moment in everything I do, the ache that in my heart brings with it so much pain, I know it will never go until you're in my arms again, then we'll be together forever.
Love and miss you always,
Wile-Jackie.

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GIG GUIDE

01691 668094

Village hall will host Vermont group's gig

GIG GUIDE

with Chrissy Symmons



PREPARE to be transported on a musical trip round the world this Sunday as the ensemble Northern Harmony appears at the village hall in Welshampton.

The 13 strong vocal group present traditional music ranging from South African songs and dances to American gospel singing and medieval motets.

Based out of Vermont, USA, they are part of the organization Village Harmony which sponsors singing camps and workshops around the world. The group is made up of veteran singers and graduates from the Village Harmony singing programs where they studied traditional singing with native teachers from South Africa, Bulgaria, Corsica and Georgia.

Currently on their 15th tour of Europe, the group has had recognition for their powerful sound and command of a range of different singing styles.

Northern Harmony will appear at the village hall, Welshampton on Sunday, February 3. The concert will start at 7.30pm. Admission is £8 on the door, £5 for children and there is a £25 family ticket. For more information call Mary Keith on 01948710586.

Friday night will see the return of the Sarah Smith Trio to the Oak in Welshpool. Considered one of the high-



Northern Harmony will be appearing in Welshampton.

lights of last years' Oak Live, the group performs exciting gypsy jazz.

Accomplished

Consisting of Sarah Smith on violin, Remi Harris on lead guitar duties and Tim Smith on vocals and rhythm guitar, the band are influenced by the likes of all time greats Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli.

All are accomplished musicians having won awards and performed with some of the world's top gypsy jazz musicians. The gig starts at 9pm and is free. For more information you can contact the Oak on 01938 552217.

The Royal Oak will host comedy on

Saturday, February 2. Doors open at 7.30pm with show starting at 9pm. Tickets cost £10 or £8 for members.

The Ironworks offers a night of live music on Saturday with performances from String the Marionette, MOOP, the Sunset Limited and Real 7. The gig starts at 8pm. Tickets £4.

The Raven Inn, Welshpool will be filled with the sound of melodic jazz from on Sunday, February 3 between 1pm and 3pm. Admission £5

Naomi Payne's Hotsy Totsy Band will make their first appearance at the Ironworks on Sunday lunchtime.

The performance will be from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Admission £4.

Classical Spectacular Royal Albert Hall London Weekend £139



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra play the world's greatest classics, with incredible lighting, lasers, thundering cannons and even fireworks! all inside the Royal Albert Hall.

Look what's included...

Day 1: Coach this morning for the journey to London, arrive at your hotel mid-afternoon. There's time to settle-in and then later, the coach will take you to the Royal Albert Hall. (There should be ample free time before the show to have something to eat if you wish). 'Classical Spectacular' performance begins at 7.30pm to approximately 10pm. The coach will be waiting to take you back to your hotel, the hotel bar will be open if you fancy a nightcap.

Day 2: Enjoy a hot or cold buffet breakfast before we leave the hotel for some free time, to see the shops and sights of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Covent Garden area of London, we leave London later this afternoon for home.

Hotels - We use the following hotels, all within easy reach of central London. Thistle Heathrow, Jury's Inn Heathrow, Holiday Inn Heathrow and several others of similar standard at busy times.

Price includes: coach, hotel, breakfast & reserved seated arena ticket (ground floor stalls). **SS £20**

Coach departs: Sun 17th March £139

Sand Bay Holiday Village in Somerset Just for over 60's

Sand Bay is a lovely 'holiday village' created just for mature adults on the coast near Weston-super-Mare in Somerset. in 17 acres of grounds with a sandy beach right outside.



Look what's included...

Day 1: Join our coach this morning as we drive down to Somerset. We'll arrive at Sand Bay late afternoon with time to settle-in.

Day 2: Breakfast then a morning trip to Taunton, ample time for a stroll, enjoy a coffee or the shops then we go into Weston-Super-Mare before we make our way back.

Day 3: Breakfast then a trip through Cheddar Gorge to Wells. Wells is England's smallest city with its medieval Cathedral. After lunch we go to Clark's outlet shopping village near Street in Somerset.

Day 4: Breakfast, leave to arrive home late afternoon.

Sand Bay Holiday Village

Accommodation in chalets, all ground floor level with full modern facilities, ensuite, TV, etc. Breakfast each morning & dinner with great nights of entertainment.

Price includes: 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus trips. **Single Supp £15**

**Coach departs: Friday 15th February £119
Friday 8th March £129**

Bideford 5 Day Coach Holiday £159

You can now have a fantastic 5-day coach trip to Bideford and glorious north Devon for a special one-off price!

Durrant House Hotel, Bideford

Modern, spacious hotel with two restaurants, two bars & a large ballroom offering something different by way of entertainment most nights.

Price includes: 4 nights D/B/B plus trips out as shown. **Single Supp £20**

Coach departs: Monday 4th March £159

Day 1: You'll arrive at the hotel late afternoon via your coach, with time to settle-in before dinner this evening.

Day 2: We visit two picturesque coastal fishing villages, Appledore and Ilfracombe.

Day 3: Day out to Exmoor National Park stopping at the twin villages of Lynton and Lynmouth. Lynton is a bright airy Victorian village located on the headland overlooking the Ocean while Lynmouth is a pretty harbour nestled beneath the cliffs. A unique water operated cliff railway joins the two villages and we've booked you a return ticket so you can visit both pretty places and enjoy a fabulous view in-between!

Day 4: Today is left free so you can relax and explore Bideford at your own pace.

Day 5: Leave after breakfast and make a suitable stop on the way back.



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Ireland Bantry Bay 5 Day Coach Holiday

A 5-day trip to Ireland for a great-value price...A lovely new trip to Ireland staying in what many consider to be the best part of Ireland...Bantry Bay and County Cork.



Look what's included...

Day 1: We go to Holyhead and board the 12pm Ferry to Dublin. Arrive at our hotel early evening.

Day 2: Breakfast, then a trip around the bay to Glengarriff and then the ferry to the beautiful 'Garden' Isle of Garmish to visit the renowned Inlucullin Gardens

Day 3: Breakfast, then we visit the charming, typically Irish towns of Skibbereen and the 'gourmet' capital of Ireland - Kinsale.

Day 4: Breakfast, today is free to explore Bantry at your own pace. You could take the boat to Whiddy Island or visit fabulous Bantry House nearby.

Day 5: After a last, breakfast we leave for the Dublin to Holyhead ferry and home.

Price includes: 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast, coach & ferry travel & trips out. **Single Supp £60**

**Coach departs: Sunday 24th March £219
Sunday 19th May £249
Sunday 15th September £249**

Durham & York Mini Coach Break £74

Treat yourself to a weekend away in beautiful Durham city and York, you'll stay in a lovely 3 star hotel with dinner and full breakfast and have time to enjoy two beautiful cities.



Look what's included...

Day 1: Coach this morning as we head north to Durham City in County Durham. Once the coach has set down you can spend the afternoon at leisure exploring at your own pace. It is quite compact, so easy to get around. Durham has a wonderful Cathedral and a magnificent Castle and many other historic buildings. Sit in the cobbled market place and watch the street entertainment. There's a good indoor market or try the up-to-date Prince Bishops shopping mall, or wander down to the riverside. After a good time in Durham, we go on to our hotel near Darlington.

Day 2: Breakfast, then we'll check out and head for York, we'll stay here until about 3:30pm, then we leave for home.

Aston Hotel, Newton Aycliffe

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NOSTALGIA & NEWS

01691 668094

Plea for artists to take part in event

ARTISTS from across the Shropshire/Welsh border are being urged get involved in this year's Helfa Gelf Art Trail.

The open studios event sees artists and craftsmen and women open their studios – from sheds to super duper galleries – to the public.

In the Shropshire border area open studios include Tithebarn in Llanarmon in the Ceiriog Valley, where many artists display their work.

Held on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout September the event allows artists to show their work to a wider audience.

Last year more than 14,000 people visited one or more of the open studios while more than 300 artists took part.

Online applications to get involved in the Helfa Gelf art trail can be made at www.helfagelf.co.uk and must be received by March 1. More information on the website or by emailing help@helfagelf.co.uk

Coffee morning

LAST Saturday's Dolanog coffee morning which was due to take place at the community centre, near Llanfair Caereinion, was cancelled due to the bad weather. The next coffee morning will take place on February 23.

Love of music gave Rusty chance to shine as singer with top band

by Toby Neal

FOR 10 Years Brian "Rusty" Roberts was the singer in George Riley's Band – one of the best-known bands to have played in and around Oswestry in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

Here he reminisces about his time in the spotlight.

"Rusty" was my nickname, although I haven't been called that since I stopped singing all those years ago. I'm 79 now. I'm from Oswestry, Welsh Walls, and I sang with the local dance band, George Riley's Band, which played regularly at the Garrison Theatre at Park Hall Camp.

When I was young a friend of mine and I put shows on in the back garden and charged kids to come. I thought I was a good singer. My father Richard Roberts – he went as Dick Roberts – was an extraordinarily good singer.

He was more classical, and with the operatic society in Oswestry. He played all the comical parts in the Gilbert and Sullivan productions. He had his own concert party which went round villages doing contests. It was another world before the 'box'. People did go to villages and put shows on back then.

I liked music and thought I would like to do it. It was my ambition to be a professional singer.

I did go to lessons with a lady in Oswestry, not to do classical singing but to learn how to sing properly and get the breathing right. I can't think of her name now.

I liked the sound of the George Riley Band and the dance band music and



"Rusty" Roberts in his days as the singer in George Riley's Band.

asked if I could have a trial. George Riley knew my father anyway, which was a good introduction. I went down and sang two songs, and he said: 'That's okay, we'll see how it goes.' A few years later I was still there.

There was also a reserve band, or second band, which played the Victoria Rooms in Oswestry, where the farmers went.

This was pre rock and roll and the songs were things like 'I'm In The Mood for Love'. When half the band wanted to have a break to go to the loo and have a



Filling in on the drums while other band members take a break.

coffee, I would play the drums with the remaining members of the band while the others were away.

I had lessons for the trumpet and I did sit in when the trumpeter was not there, but was told 'Don't blow too hard – we don't want to hear you.' To the audience

it looked as if it was the full-sized band playing. It was – but not everybody was playing.

● Next week we'll continue "Rusty's" story, as he tells of his favourite singer and some concerts which stick in the memory for the wrong reasons.

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MARKETS

01691 668094

Welshpool livestock market

January 28
OTMS (61)
An entry of 61 Over Thirty Month Cattle sold to a better average today 127ppkg for the older cows, 140ppkg for the bulls and 159ppkg for the younger heifers. Top price of the day for the older cows was achieved by H & S Watkins Cammen Uchaf who sold two Limousin cows to £1286.31 and £1213.44. Bulls topped at £1566.72 for a Limousin weighing 1088kg from VG & M Jones Bryn yr Hesglwyn. H & S Watkin Cammen Uchaf receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day. If you require any further information regarding this section please contact the market on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999.

FAT CATTLE (8)
Only 8 fat cattle presented for sale today sold to a very good average of 221ppkg for the heifers and 203ppkg for the steers. GW & BA Haynes Trefnant Isaf sold four Limousin heifers to 238ppkg, 237ppkg, 228ppkg, which were bought by Rikki Lloyd Butcher of Welshpool and 226ppkg. Three limousin steers from EE & MJ Jones & Sons Cwmbychan sold for 212ppkg, 208ppkg and 192ppkg. GW & BA Haynes Trefnant Isaf receive the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price per

kilo animal sold on the day. Weekly sale of Fat cattle every Monday will commence at approximately 12.30pm. More Fat Cattle urgently required to meet a very strong demand from potential purchasers. If you have require any advise or wish to sell fat cattle at the market please contact the auctioneer Mr Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999 or the market office on 01938 553438.

PRIME HOGGETS (3417)
An entry of 3417 Prime Hoggets, selling to an overall average of 144ppkg.

Super Lights (17.5kg to 25.4kg) (4) to 113ppkg from D L G Price & C Brynnoch. Average of 111.5ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (218) to 148ppkg from R B Jones Llwynobin. Others to 145ppkg from RR & CE Hodnett werngyfron. Average of 133ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (906) to 181ppkg from R B Jones Llwynobin. Others to 161ppkg from J F Morgan & Son Plas. Average of 142ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (1567) to 180ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 169ppkg from G Davies Lan Farm. Average of 147ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (586) to 149ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 147ppkg from WG Jones Cwmduigan. Average of 135ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (41) to 120ppkg

from J W Hopkins Bank Farm & EJ & AJ Roberts Longlands. Others to 119ppkg from RE & EJ Rowlands Tycam. Average of 112ppkg.

CULL EWE (2343)
An entry of 2343 cull sheep on offer for sale today, sold to average £28.64 for the ewes and £55.97 for the rams. Top price of the day for the ewes was £105 per head from E E Powell Cilpenre. Top price for the cull rams was £95 per head from G Davies Lan Farm. Weekly sale of cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately 12noon.

STORE LAMBS & STORE EWES

An increased entry of 423 store lambs achieving an average of £35. Mixed and Clean lambs achieving a top price of £53 from Owen & Hughes Cwm-badarn. Wether lambs achieving a top price of £45.50 from D A Williams Tanyclawdd. Tup lambs achieving a top price of £53.50 from R T Watkins Coed y Deri. Mixed and tup lambs achieving a top price of £42 from BL & CDL Williams Cyll Trefeglwys.

IN LAMB EWES.
An entry of 355 in lamb ewes. Two year old mule ewes scanned mostly doubles achieved a top price of £98 from C D Gittins & Co Lower Llivior. Three year old ewes achieved a top price of £89 from C D Gittins. Full mouth mule ewes also from C D Gittins achieved a top price of £90. As found Welsh Mule ewes scanned triplets achieved

a top price of £68 from T J Williams Capeli. Suffolk three year old ewe with a lamb sold to £86 from G Davies Lan Farm.
CADE LAMBS.
One texelx cade lamb sold to £13 also from G Davies Lan Farm.
More in lamb ewes expected next week. Sale of Store lambs to commence at 10.30am, followed by the sale of In Lamb ewes & couples and followed immediately by the Cade Lambs.

DAIRY COWS

A catalogue entry of 12 Dairy Cows took place on Monday 28th January. RR Corfield & Co Brynnyant sold four Pedigree Holstein Friesian heifers. Hafesp Gibson Heather achieved £2120, Willingham Jeeves Loral achieved £2000, Brony-nant Matson Zoe 3 made £1910 and Terling Cri sold for £1040. K S Jones & Son Lane Farm sold a heifer for £1510. A Brown Swiss heifer from PW Pritchard and K A Loake Cefn Holin sold for £1920. A second calver from R N Thompson Oak Green Farm sold for £1340 and two heifers sold for £1400 and £1220. Next Sale of Dairy cows will take place on Monday 11th February. If you have any Dairy cows or heifers you wish to sell please contact the market on 01938 553438 or Richard Evans on 07764 663192.

FORTH COMING SALES:

Monday 4th February, Sale of Cows and Calves.
Monday 11th February, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday 12th February, Sale of Organic, Weanling and Store Cattle.

Monday 18th February, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday 25th February, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday 26th February, February Store Cattle Fair.

Monday 4th March, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday 11th March, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Monday 12th March, Sale of Organic, Weanlings & Store Cattle.

Monday 18th March, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday 25th March, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday 26th March, March Store Cattle Fair.

Monday 1st April, Sale of Cows and Calves & April, Easter Spring Lambs Show and Sale.

Monday 8th April, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday 9th April, Sale of Organic, Weanlings & Store Cattle.

Monday 15th April, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Thursday 18th April, Sale of Pedigree Charolais Cattle.

Monday 22nd April, Sale of Dairy Cattle.

Monday 26th April, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Tuesday 30th April, April Store Cattle Fair

Oswestry cattle auctions

January 23
FAT CATTLE: (72)

A good entry of quality cattle all the way through with some cracking runs of good cattle. Best quality Heifers selling between 230p and 239p. The Bulls

were a mixy show mainly dairy bred but still selling well. Top slots hit 239p for Heifers, 231p for Steers and 204p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1518 for a Bull. Bottom book 139p for a Friesian Heifer. Overall market average of 196p was achieved.

Young Bulls (15) Overall Average 179.5p.

Light Bulls (1) Selling to 176p (£810/head) from R Thomas Neuaddlwyd

Medium Bulls (7) Average 175.5p (£930/head)

Selling to 204p from H Howells Tynyrwtra

Heavy Bulls (7) Average 183.5p (£1220/head)

Selling to 193p from CE Evans Lower Hendre

Steers (11) Overall Average 197p.

Light Steers (1) Selling to 176p (£800/head) from D S Roberts Lyndale

Medium Steers (6) Average 199p (£1065/head)

Selling to 231p from R E Hughes Parc Farm

Heavy Steers (4) Average 198p (£1170/head)

Selling to 229p from A & J Powell Broniarth Hall

Heifers (46) Overall Average 201.5p

Medium Heifers (12) Average 205.5p (£950/head)

Selling to 237p from R W & J L Edwards Tyntwll

Heavy Heifers (34) Average 200.5p (£1065/head)

Selling to 239p from A H M Lea & Sons Lee Bridges

A good trade on all types please keep those hand-weight cattle coming now we have the custom.

Thank you for your continued support

FAT HOGGETTS: (2451)

A good entry of 2451 fat hoggets which was an increase of 20% on the same entry in 2012. Considering the snow and wintry conditions this was a very acceptable entry. The trade again was extremely variable with the best continental hoggs making from 160p - 170p/kg while mule and welsh hoggs were in the 130p/kg. 571 light hoggs levelled at 129.5p/kg topping at 150p/kg from P A & H S Davies Maesyneuadd with 32kg hoggs making £48. 862 standard hoggs levelled at 142.5p/kg with the top being 164p/kg from D J & E G Jones & Son Lloran Ganol with 39kg hoggs making £64. The 724 medium hoggs averaged 146p/kg with the section peaking at 170p/kg from S J Smith Penybryn with 40.5kg at £68.80. The heavy hoggs averaged 134.5p/kg with the top price of the day being £71.50

Superlights to 122p average 121p Lights to 150p average 129.5p. Standards to 164p average 142.5p. Mediums to 170p average 146p. Heavy's to 150p average 134.5p. Others to 130p average 124.5p. Overall average 142.5p.

FAT EWES: (438)
Ewes to £70.50 average £34.50. Rams to £60.00, average £46.00

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (44)
Reasonably good numbers on another cold day with trade generally easier particularly for continen-

tals, friesians selling at similar levels. Limousin Bulls topping at £395 & £298 from Messrs Edwards Lower Sweeney £298 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill. Charolais Bulls to £360 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr British Blue Bulls to £270 from Messrs Powell Llwynmawr Mill £260 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr. British Blue Heifers to £254 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr. Limousin Heifers to £230 & £208 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill £225 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawnog. Friesian Bulls to £136 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed £110 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr £108 from Messrs Henshaw Little Greenhill £92 from Messrs Ede Willow Farm £90 from Messrs Jones Bank Farm

U72 & CULL COWS: (19)

An entry affected by the weather met with a fantastic trade. The continentals sold to 187p/kg and friesians to 149p/kg even the plain friesians were making over 100p/kg and sold to 123p/kg. Top price Cow 187p/kg

Cows
Limousin to 187p average 164.46p/kg

Friesian to 149p average 122.48p/kg

19 Cattle average 129.84p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

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Example: Suzuki Alto 1.0 SZ 5dr

Cash price

£5,995.00

Deposit

£499.00

Amount to finance

£5,496.00

Interest charges

£1,227.53

Payable by 47 monthly payments

£99.99

Followed by a final payment of

£2,024.00

Option fee payable with final payment

£285.00

Total amount payable

£7,507.53

Excess mileage charge per mile

6 pence

Miles per annum

5,000

Fixed rate of interest

8.29%

Term

48 months

Representative APR

9.9%

Brand New Suzuki Swift

From only

£8,999

SAVING YOU

£1,800

List price

£10,799

Example: Suzuki Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr

Cash price

£8,999.00

Deposit

£159.00

Amount to finance

£8,840.00

Interest charges

£1,408.00

Payable by 41 monthly payments

£159.00

Followed by a final payment of

£3,695.00

Purchase fee (inc in monthly payments)

£10.00

Credit facility fee (inc in monthly payments)

£315.00

Total amount payable

£10,407.00

Excess mileage charge per mile

6.0 pence

Miles per annum

8,000

Fixed rate of interest

4.84%

Term

43 months

Annual percentage rate

6.3%

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£8,999.00

Deposit

£129.00

Amount to finance

£8,870.00

Interest charges

£401.00

Payable by 47 monthly payments

£129.00

Followed by a final payment of

£3,208.00

Option fee payable with final payment

£285.00

Total amount payable

£9,685.00

Excess mileage charge per mile

6.0 pence

Miles per annum

5,000

Fixed rate of interest

1.67%

Term

48 months

Representative APR

2.8%

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Motoring

New SsangYong crossover looking set for sales boost

Drive time with Graham Breeze



IT'S GOING to take some time but believe me you're going to see a lot more vehicles from the SsangYong stable hitting our roads.

When the runners and riders in the crossover stakes line up for honours few will lay their money on the SsangYong Korando but punters will be well advised to place an each-way bet.

Bookmakers will be offering long odds on SsangYong leading many chases but the Korando is so vastly improved it is barely recognisable and sales are set to grow.

And with dealership numbers on the increase this Korean-built vehicle is ideal for the winter conditions we are all experiencing.

Optimum

Every Korando crossover comes equipped with all-season tyres to give optimum grip regardless of the weather or road conditions, ensuring high levels of wet and dry weather traction and ride.

There's on-demand four-wheel drive which constantly monitors the level of grip available and distributes power to the wheels that need it most.

Under normal driving conditions the engine's torque is directed to the front wheels so the car runs with the efficiency of a family hatchback. However, if the front tyres begin to lose traction, power is automatically fed to the rear wheels to ensure safe, stable and depend-



The new SsangYong Korando has been vastly improved

able progress is maintained with grip from all four wheels.

An all-wheel drive lock mode is also provided to ensure a 50/50 spread of torque between the front and rear wheels at speeds up to 25mph, essential for when low speed traction and control is needed.

There's a good balance of comfort and handling, and lots of power for an affordable price. But more importantly you get those all-important chunky 4x4 looks.

This Korando is the best SsangYong I have

driven with consistent steering and a comfortable ride though there's probably a bit too much engine rumble and wind noise at speed.

Some may be critical of the interior quality but you have to remember that this is far from the most expensive crossover in the sector. The Korando's equipment is all in the right place and the company has concentrated on a straightforward dash with well positioned switches.

There's no scrimping on safety and all models come with stability control, plus front-, side- and curtain airbags, as standard. You also get



Price for the crossover range from £16,995 to £22,995

active head restraints to help prevent whiplash injuries, and security is provided by an alarm and engine immobiliser.

Behind the wheel there's no reason you should not find a comfortable position with standard height adjustment and there's also two-way movement on the steering column.

The cabin is easily roomy enough for five adults with a wide middle seat and a flat floor in the back.

The boot is big enough for most needs and the rear seats fold completely flat to extend it further.

SsangYong intends to offer value for money, and a high level of equipment is a part of this. Even the entry-level model comes with cruise control, rear parking sensors, air conditioning, Bluetooth and iPod connections and roof rails.

The EX Auto on test had heated leather seats, a sunroof, electric mirrors, 17in alloys, rear parking sensors and roof rails.

There's surprising performance of 0-62mph in 9.9seconds but combined fuel consumption of 37.7mpg is far from the highest in class for a diesel unit.

All models in the SsangYong range are covered by a best-in-class five-year limitless mileage warranty.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system.

Prices range from £16,995 to £22,995.

Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,000 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.

In racing-speak the Korando is an outsider with a touch of form and one to really watch for the future.

Bumper to bumper

MAKE: SsangYong Korando
MODEL: EX Auto
PRICE: £22,995
0-62MPH: 9.9secs
CO2 EMISSIONS: 199k/gm

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11 PEUGEOT 207. 14K, BLUE AS NEW	SOLD
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRI 26k, Silver	SOLD
59 NISSAN NOTE DCI Pure Drive	£5995
08 PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI SE	SOLD
57 MONDEO EDGE TDCI Silver	£4995
57 VOLVO S40 TS Diesel, Black	£5995
07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 SPORT Silver	SOLD
06 FORD FOCUS ZETEC TDCI Blue	£5475
06 TOYOTA AVENTIS T3S Auto, 38,000 miles	£4995
06 Vauxhall Corsa SXi Plus 16V	SOLD
06 SUZUKI JIMNY 4x4	£5325
55 MAZDA RX8, Black, 39k	£3975
55 PEUGEOT 307 XSI 2.0 HDI Diesel, Bronze Met, Leather	£5350
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£3450
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver	£3395
54 CORSA SXi Blue	£1875
54 MG TF Convertible Summer fun, Yellow	£1995
54 VAUXHALL ASTRA CWS, Black	£2575
04 MGZT 1.8 TURBO Blue	SOLD
53 Peugeot 206 HDI SE Diesel, Blue	SOLD
53 SEAT Ibiza S Nice car	£1495
04 FORD KA Blue	£1995
03 CITROEN C5 1.8 Blue superb throughout	£2750
03 VW GOLF 4 MOTION Leather	£3595
03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO	£2495
03 FORD KA Red, Choice of 2, low miles	£2195
02 ROVER 25 IMPRESSION Silver, 46k	£1995
5 JAGUAR XK8 1 Owner, Low Mileage, Silver, must be seen	POA
X TRANSIT Diesel SWB	£2695
W BMW 530 SE Diesel, Leather, Auto	£2495
S JAGUAR XJ 3.2 Auto, Gold Met, Leather, Extensive Service History	£2995

Commercials

08 Peugeot Partner Diesel	£3695 +VAT
07 Transit SWB Diesel	£4200 +VAT
56 Citroen Berlingo Diesel	£2695 +VAT
06 Ford Transit Connect Diesel	£3695 +VAT
06 Ford Transit Connect 55k	£2995 +VAT
04 Renault Kangoo	£1695 +VAT
53 Citroen Berlingo Diesel	£1695 +VAT
03 Peugeot Partner	£1795 +VAT
X Ford Transit Diesel, SWB	£2695 +VAT
Y Mitsubishi L200 Double Cab	£3000 +VAT

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Motoring

Octavia is big player in the evolution of Skoda

By Ian Donaldson

If you want to know how important the new Octavia is to Skoda's continuing growth you needed to see the small army of people spending a month in the Portuguese sun.

They were everywhere, helping guide 1,000 motoring writers from around the world to the dining room at the hotel, the conference room, the breakfast room... the check-in desk at the airport and the orange juice and cakes at the coffee stop on the test route.

Ferrying

Some of Skoda's support drivers had spent three days ferrying a fleet of big Superb saloons several thousand kilometres from their native Czech Republic to the guaranteed frost-free climes of southern Portugal, to chauffeur writers from airport to hotel for their one-night stays.

Then you discover that 44 in every Skoda built are Octavias and more than 3.7 million have been sold since the first ones arrived in 1996. Skoda's ambitious plans for the years ahead would derail if Octavia sales softened.

So it's no surprise that Octavia mark three, which reaches the UK on March 16, is no mould breaker. Its simply bigger, bolder and better than before; moving the game on without



Prices for the new Octavia range from £15,990 to £23,240

upsetting potential purchasers with anything too radical.

It's based on the same new, and wildly expensive to develop, underpinning seen in the latest VW Golf (and new Audis and Seats too) and comes with a series of petrol and diesel engines aimed at stretching visits to the pumps and cutting nasties from the exhaust, to the benefit of the environment and an owner's wallet.

The new Octavia is 90mm (3.5in) longer than before but, crucially the distance between front and rear wheels is stretched 108mm (4.2in), with the extra space given to rear seat legroom and an ever bigger boot.

The old Octavia is a hit in China, where they like room in the rear. They're going to love the new one, as are UK taxi firms and families with teenage children and masses of luggage. Skoda long ago stopped fighting for the



The new Skoda Octavia, which arrives in the UK on March 16

cheaper end of the car market, concentrating instead on value (the M&S philosophy, you could say) and must have decided there's a big enough jump in quality and design to stand a significant price rise.

That means the new range starts at £15,990 for a 1.2-litre petrol model, a stiff £2,605 rise on before. The car on test, a 1.6 diesel in mid-level SE trim and a likely big seller, has risen £1,740 to £19,240, with the new range-top-

ping 2.0 diesel automatic up a more modest £785 to £23,240.

Skoda says the entry-level new car has £3,500 of extra equipment as standard, including alloy wheels, DAB radio, extra airbags, remote central locking, touchscreen for the sound system and an eco-boosting stop/start system.

Octavia estates have always been popular and a version is mere months away. Later in the year we'll see the go-faster vRS model make its appearance, promising to be the fastest Octavia yet. The most economical Octavia yet, also arrives in 2013, with a Green-Line model.

Sophisticated

On the near deserted Portuguese roads the new Octavia comes over as a more sophisticated version of the old car, with a surprising amount of added space, especially in the back, where a six-footer can comfortably sit behind his identical twin brother at the wheel.

The 1.6 litre, 103bhp diesel pulls well and will prove more economical than the 1.4 petrol model, which delighted a keen driver by feeling lighter on its toes; almost sporty in its eager responses. It is £860 less than the diesel too.

Lots of Octavias will end up as company cars, where the diesel's economy (71.6mpg is the official, but highly unlikely average) is going to make it much more popular than the petrol model.

The fact that the diesel also shrugs off the London congestion charge and laughs in the face of road tax, will clinch the deal.

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2010 10	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI AVANTE SE 143bhp 6 speed Manual, Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£13,999
2009 59	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE SALOON SE 140bhp, Bright Red, 35,000 miles, one owner, manual 6 speed, FSH	£13,999
2010 10	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE AVANT 6 speed Manual 140bhp, Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2006 06	AUDI A6 2.0 TDI S-LINE SALOON 6 speed Manual, Metallic Silver, 1/2 leather, sat nav, just been serviced by Audi, FSH	£19,999
2006 06	AUDI A6 2.0 TDI S-LINE SALOON 6 speed, manual, Metallic Silver, 1/2 leather, Sat Nav, 63,000 miles, FSH	£9999
2011 11	BMW 116 d M-Sport, 5-door, White, Manual, 18,000 miles, £30 a year tax + duty	£15,489
2009 58	BMW 320d SE Coupe Auto, Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2007 57	BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual, Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH	£11,999
2006 06	BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual, only 38,000 miles, immob Red, FSH	£9,999
2011 11	BMW 320d SE 6 speed Manual 184bhp, Metallic Red, 14,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£18,489
2003 03	BMW X5 4.6 iS Auto Estate, Blue Metallic, Black leather, sat nav/TVDVD, sunroof, fully loaded, 53,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2009 59	CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI AIRDREAM 5-door, Metallic Silver, 30 a year Road Tax, 1 owner	£6,999
2005 54	CITROEN DISPATCH 1.9 DIESEL VAN Side loading doors, Red, 3 seats, 47,000 miles, NO VAT	£3999
2006 56	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC 5-door, Metallic Blue, 20,000 miles, FSH	£3,489
2003 03	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 3 door, Metallic Green, 74,000 miles	SOLD
2009 09	FORD FUSION ZETEC 1.4 TDCI 5-door, Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, one owner, £30 a year road tax	£7,489
2007 56	FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6 Manual, Metallic Silver, 55,000 miles	£4,999
2009 59	FORD MONDEO TDCI ZETEC 6 Speed Manual, Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£9999
2009 59	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Hatch Manual, Metallic Blue, one owner, only 1,300 miles	SOLD
2003 53	FORD STREET KA 1.6 CABRIOLET Metallic Blue, 4x4, 79,000 miles, leather hard top	£2999 SOLD
2009 59	FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 4x4 Metallic Red, 35,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2009 59	KIA CEE'D 1.6 LS 5-door Diesel, Metallic Blue, 33,000 miles, 1 owners	£3,489
2003 03	KIA SORRENTO 2.5 XE 4x4 Manual Diesel, Metallic Blue, 79,000, FSH	£4,999
2003 03	KIA SCENIC XE DIESEL Manual Metallic Blue, 4x4, 79,000 miles	£4999
2005 05	MINI COOPER S CONVERTIBLE Automatic, Fully loaded, leather, Metallic Blue, 43,000 miles	DUE IN
2004 04	MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSOR SE Coupe Manual, Metallic Blue, 93,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2004 04	MERCEDES C180 COUPE Manual, Metallic Blue, 93,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2005 55	NISSAN PRIMESTAR Camper Van 2.7 DCI 6 speed Manual, Brand new camper conversion by Gee Wigan, 57,000 miles	£11,999
2009 59	NISSAN NOTE VISIA 1.6 Auto 5-dr, 1 owner, 24,000 miles	£6,999
2009 59	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACCENTA 5-door Manual, Cafe Latte Metallic, one owner, 39,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2009 59	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI ACCENTA Bright Blue Metallic, 18,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£11,489
2010 59	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI ACCENTA Cafe Latte Metallic, 18,000 miles, FSH, one owner	£11,489
2009 59	PEUGEOT 107 990cc 5-door, Red, 10,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner, £20 a year Road Tax	£5,489
2003 53	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 ESTATE Manual, 73,000 miles, Metallic Grey	SOLD
2004 04	PORSCHE CARRERA 4s 4X4, 4 Wheel Drive, Silver Metallic, Grey Leather, 46,000 miles, FSH, must be seen	REDUCED £24,999
2005 55	RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 Hatchback Manual, Metallic Silver, 90,000 miles	£2,489
2009 59	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCHBACK 5-door, Metallic Red, 24,000 miles, 1 owner	£6,999
2009 59	RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION 5-door, Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles	£6,489
2009 59	SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT 5-door, Metallic Grey, 24,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 09	SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 Estate, Blue Metallic, one owner, only 15,000 miles from new	£7,489
2008 08	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE Estate, DSG Automatic, Metallic Green, FSH	SOLD
2008 58	TOYOTA AURIS TR D4D HATCHBACK Manual, Metallic Grey, 28,000 miles	SOLD
2007 07	TOYOTA AURIS TR 2.0 D4D 5-door Hatchback, Metallic Silver, 75,000 miles, FSH	£5,489
2009 59	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CLUB 5-door, Metallic Blue, one owner, 18,000 miles, FSH	£5,489
2009 59	VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE 1.6 HATCHBACK 5-door, One owner, 1,300 miles, Metallic Silver	£6,489
2009 59	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5-door, Grey Metallic, 24,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2010 60	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi Van, White, only 23,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner	SOLD
2009 59	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi 3-door, Automatic, Metallic Black, 1 owner, 12,000 miles	£7,489
2009 59	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi EXCLUSIVE 160bhp Manual, Metallic Red, 43,000 miles, 1 owner	£8,999
2003 03	VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DTI SALOON Manual, Metallic Grey, 84,000 miles	£2,999
2008 58	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi HATCHBACK 120bhp EXCLUSIVE Metallic Silver, only 39,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 08	VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic, 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic	£17,999
2009 55	VW PASSAT 2.0HDI HIGHLINE 140hp ESTATE, 6 speed manual, metallic blue, 84,000 miles, full leather	£7,999
2008 58	VOLVO V50 2.0 SE ESTATE, Metallic Silver, full leather, 84,000 miles	£5,999
2009 59	VOLVO S40 2.0 TDI 143bhp 4-door, Blue Metallic, 1 owner, only 8,000 miles from new	£10,999
2008 58	VW POLO MATCH 1.4 AUTOMATIC 5-door, Black Metallic, 59,000 miles, alloy wheels, privacy glass	£5,999
2003 03	VW POLO 1.4 3-door Manual, Bright Red, 61,000 miles, FSH	£3,250
2009 09	VW SCIROCCO GT 2.0 TFSI COUPE 200PS Blue Metallic, one owner, only 13,700 miles, 5-speed box, 18" alloy, climate control, parking sensors	£15,999



2009 59 VOLVO S40 2.0 TDI 143bhp 4-door, Blue Metallic, 1 owner, only 8,000 miles from new £10,999



2011 11 BMW 320d SE 118bhp, 6 speed, Metallic Red, 14,000 miles, one owner, FSH £18,489



2011 11 BMW 116d M SPORT 5-door Manual, White, 18,000 miles, £30 a year road tax £15,489



2003 53 FORD KA STREETKA CABRIOLET 1.6 Manual, Metallic Blue, leather, heated seats, 47,000 miles £2,999



2010 10 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI AVANTE SE 143bhp 6 speed Manual, Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH £13,999

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Motoring

Chevrolet Aveo is at ease in the city and on motorways

By Bob Hickman

The five-door Chevrolet Aveo is a diminutive city car but do not let that badge deceive you because this vehicle is at ease on the motorway, the open roads, countryside as well as in and around the city.

Chevrolet with the Aveo have done like a good many other manufacturers have done and created a 5-seater in a small foot print and in a small package that will be easy to fit in your garage, on your drive or in a restricted parking space. It is a 5-door hatchback with ample room for 5 occupants, it is extremely stylish, and the front with its twin grille almost seems to smile with a welcome home to you.

Corporate

Chevrolet like a good many other manufacturers are adopting a corporate look at the front with the huge, bold Chevrolet badge and these twin grilles mean you know that this vehicle belongs to a pedigree company of some years standing.

The new Aveo has a completely redesigned exterior and cabin, it also has a newly developed chassis and a body structure and Chevrolet have gone down the route of trying to make their engines far more fuel efficient with reduced emissions levels, and they have succeeded.

They have produced an everyday car, well engineered which is an enjoyable vehicle to



Chevrolet's Aveo is a good looking all-rounder with plenty of bonus points

both own and also to drive.

The engine options available on the Aveo are 2 petrols, a 1.4-litre, producing 100 bhp and a more diminutive 1.2-litre producing 86 bhp.

My particular test vehicle was equipped with a 1.3-litre diesel engine, a very small engine but with common rail fuel injection, stop/start technology, with a variable geometry turbo-charger meant, it had a power output of 95 bhp

and this was an excellent combination to the vehicle.

The performance was more than adequate for my needs and fitted perfectly in to the size scale and type of the vehicle. It had extremely low emissions at 95 gms for the little 1.3-litre Eco option meaning seriously cheap in fact free road fund licence at the moment.

Variety
The fuel consumption figures quoted by



The Aveo's interior is well thought out

Chevrolet are quite outlandish, suffice to say that during my week in company with the vehicle in a variety of driving styles and situations, but primarily in and around town and a lot of stop/start motoring, I managed to achieve 52 mpg, which is a long way short of the claimed 78.4 combined cycle, but for a vehicle of this size and performance, I was quite pleased at 52 mpg.

An option which will suit a lot of drivers is

that there is a 6-speed automatic transmission unit available with the 1.4-litre petrol engine models, this could well be the factor which tips you over the balance of looking at this derivative, an automatic gearbox in a nice small compact car, add in to the equation ease of access into all the seats and a not too high boot loading aperture and further ownership boxes are ticked.

The particular derivative that I tested was an LT, there are 3 trim levels available, badged as LS, LT, and LTZ, mine fitted in to the middle category, but even that is seriously well equipped with nice 15" alloy wheels, a blue tooth phone compatibility system which regrettably no matter how I tried couldn't get it to connect to my HTC phone.

Heated

It had the benefit of hill start assist, cruise control, and electric windows, driver's seat multi-adjustable, I liked the factor that the exterior mirrors were heated so on the cold frosty mornings that we had whilst I tested the car this feature was an absolute bonus. The vehicle and all the range have a 5* NCAP safety rating which is more peace of mind.

The performance aspect was more than acceptable, Chevrolet suggest a top speed of 108 mph and a 0-60 gallop could be achieved in marginally over 11 seconds and of course the important feature is the CO at a mere 95.

My particular derivative was priced at £12,795 on the road and I really do believe that this is another of the small city cars that if you were on a tight budget it is certainly worth a look especially as the range start at £9,995 and all benefit from a 5-year warranty.

gripping stuff...

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SPORT

Hopes are high for hockey to resume

NOW the snow has gone hockey teams are hoping the season can finally get back on track, writes **EDWARD ROBERTS**.

Welshpool Ladies will be looking to bounce back from their loss to Newtown when they face Llandudno, away, on Saturday.

Welshpool have had some really bad luck when it comes to the weather, a series of cancellations both before and after Christmas meant that they have only played four games so far.

With this in mind it's vital they get the win here.

Having lost all six of their previous matches, Llandudno shouldn't pose too tough a challenge but Welshpool will need to be at the top of their game if they want to ensure victory.

Oswestry Ladies will be looking to continue their unbeaten winning streak when they play Newton-le-Willows on Saturday.

Oswestry will be going into the game as the heavy favourite and rightfully so as they have won all ten of their matches.

The Oswestry side should have some added confidence from the fact they beat Newton-le-Willows 3-0 last time they met.

Performance

Oswestry Men's first team will be playing Aston University on February 9.

This is the second time the two sides have played each other with Oswestry beating Aston 10-3 last time out.

Both teams are coming off losses, but Oswestry should have the edge with Aston having only won a single match so far.

Their lone victory came against West Bromwich who narrowly beat Oswestry in December.

Aston will have the home advantage, but as long as Oswestry stay focused they should get the win.

Oswestry Men's second team will be going up against Aberystwyth University on February 9.

The two teams met for the first time back in October, with Oswestry winning 3-0.

Oswestry will have the benefit of playing at home and will be looking to repeat their previous performance against Aberystwyth.

Backing for motocross grand prix

TWO Shropshire companies are throwing their weight behind an event that is set to bring many of the world's top motocross stars to the county next month.

Hawkstone International Motocross, at the famous Hawkstone Park circuit on Sunday, February 10, has attracted its best ever entry of world championship contenders and Grand Prix race teams.

Hawk Plant Hire from Preez Heath and Shrewsbury-based caravan dealership Salop Leisure have agreed to support this important pre-season event, which will be televised and broadcast later on Sky Channel Motors TV UK.

The HIMX team has pulled off a major coup by signing up defending MX2 world champion Jeffrey Herlings for the event.

Practice on the Sunday begins at 9am, with the first international race from noon. Admission is £25 for adults and free for children under 14 years.



Former Ellesmere College pupil James King in action for Wales against England

Young Eagles side impress as they lose out in Ramsey

OSWESTRY'S barren run on the Isle of Man continued as they found themselves beaten 26-0 at Ramsey to suffer their fourth defeat on the board in the South Lancs and Cheshire Division Two.

The Eagles have yet to taste victory on their travels across the water and again had little to show for their efforts following their latest trek by road and air.

Despite the defeat, there were positives from a young side who remain mid-table in seventh spot, while Ramsey have now lifted themselves up to eighth in the table following their recent revival.

With a mixture of unavailability and work commitments, the Eagles selected a side containing two debutants from the last season's youth team in Luca Owen-Youens at fly half and Iwan Ellis on the wing. Also returning to the side from injuries were Dan Williams,

Gareth Ellis, Luke Parks and Phil Dury, again all products of Oswestry's youth system.

Oswestry started well, playing the agreed game plan, keeping Ramsey in their own half for the first quarter, with Owen-Youens marshalling his backs line well, and making a couple of strong defensive tackles. With the forwards supplying good quality ball around the contact area the Eagles looked confident of gaining the first victory on the island.

Touchdown

However, after a couple of missed penalty kicks at goal, Ramsey started to gain more possession around the contact area and went ahead with a converted try after their No 8 drove over.

The hosts were now starting to take control of the game, and increased their lead when a good handling move saw their back line outflank the Oswestry defence to score another converted try.

The visitors turned round at the break having made a couple of changes with Dan Williams moving to scrum half, Jamie Luckett on the flank, with Iwan Ellis making his debut on the wing.

However, Ramsey went over for another try around the contact area, before adding a fourth touchdown following a comedy of errors.

This fourth try proved the turning point for this young, inexperienced Oswestry side who started to attack Ramsey around the contact area with Andy Mearett offloading in the tackle to support players coming from depth, which boosted confidence in a very strong finish.

Platform

Overall it was a very positive performance by all the team with Gareth Ellis and Dury in the second row outstanding in the loose supported well by Luckett and Samuels.

The front row of Keaveny, Parks and Richardson were also setting a good platform at the breakdown.

Williams made a big difference in his comeback game and Owen-Youens showed he can handle the pressure of first team rugby at fly half.

Coach Don Howell and captain Graham Fox were both impressed with this young team's performance.

Oswestry have no league game this weekend before hosting Isle of Man side Vagabonds the following Saturday.

Club gets funds

SHREWSBURY Rugby Club has been awarded funding from the Rugby Football Union and Sport England for ground improvements at their Sundorne Castle base.

Former college star James in Wales Six Nations squad

A FORMER Ellesmere College pupil is celebrating after being called up to the Wales squad for the forth-coming Sixth Nation's rugby tournament.

James King, a flanker for the Ospreys in the Rabo Direct Pro12 League, received news of the squad last week.

Having studied at the school until four years ago, he follows in the footsteps of legendary English Grand Slam-winning captain Bill Beaumont, who is also an Old Ellesmerian and went on to captain the British Lions.

King, 22 who was born in Australia and formed part of the victorious Ospreys side which defeated Leinster by the narrowest of margins in last season's Grand Final, has made 35 appearances for the Swansea-based

club and could be in line to make his full international debut when Wales kick off the defence of their six nations crown against Ireland at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff tomorrow.

Paul Goodwin, Director of Admissions at Ellesmere said: "Everyone is absolutely delighted for James. He was part of the rugby academy during my time in charge and he always showed great athleticism and ability. James gets through an enormous amount of work on the field and his call up to the Wales squad is fantastic recognition for the academy and Ellesmere College."

Ellesmere College currently has four schoolboy rugby internationals in its ranks, including two for England, and one each representing Georgia and Germany

Hockey side are thumped

OSWESTRY will be sick of the sight of its chasing Ludlow after slumping 9-1 to the south Shropshire side in the West Midlands Hockey League division two.

Having lost 6-2 at home earlier in the season, Oswestry again found themselves well beaten in the return as Andrew Richards scored four times and Matt Blount hit a hat-trick to put Ludlow top of the table.

Date is set for canal triathlon

LOCAL athletes are invited to enter the Montgomery Canal Triathlon on May 11.

The triathlon will use the 35 mile route of the canal.

For more details contact Peter Richards on (01691) 831455 while further information can be found at <http://www.montgomerycanal.co.uk/>

Tables

Spar Mid Wales League
Division one: Aberystwyth 1, Aberystwyth 2, Tŷwen Brynnyg 3, Bala 4, Bala 5, Bala 6, Bala 7, Bala 8, Bala 9, Bala 10, Bala 11, Bala 12, Bala 13, Bala 14, Bala 15, Bala 16, Bala 17, Bala 18, Bala 19, Bala 20, Bala 21, Bala 22, Bala 23, Bala 24, Bala 25, Bala 26, Bala 27, Bala 28, Bala 29, Bala 30, Bala 31, Bala 32, Bala 33, Bala 34, Bala 35, Bala 36, Bala 37, Bala 38, Bala 39, Bala 40, Bala 41, Bala 42, Bala 43, Bala 44, Bala 45, Bala 46, Bala 47, Bala 48, Bala 49, Bala 50, Bala 51, Bala 52, Bala 53, Bala 54, Bala 55, Bala 56, Bala 57, Bala 58, Bala 59, Bala 60, Bala 61, Bala 62, Bala 63, Bala 64, Bala 65, Bala 66, Bala 67, Bala 68, Bala 69, Bala 70, Bala 71, Bala 72, Bala 73, Bala 74, Bala 75, Bala 76, Bala 77, Bala 78, Bala 79, Bala 80, Bala 81, Bala 82, Bala 83, Bala 84, Bala 85, Bala 86, Bala 87, Bala 88, Bala 89, Bala 90, Bala 91, Bala 92, Bala 93, Bala 94, Bala 95, Bala 96, Bala 97, Bala 98, Bala 99, Bala 100, Bala 101, Bala 102, Bala 103, Bala 104, Bala 105, Bala 106, Bala 107, 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SPORT

TNS hopes of staging cup clash are dashed

THE freezing weather took its toll for a second week running with much of the football fixture list grinding to a halt.

Among the casualties were The New Saints whose appetising Welsh Cup fourth round tie at home to Rhyl was postponed due to snow and ice at Park Hall.

The Oswestry side were desperate to get the game played but heavy snow and plummeting temperatures on the eve of the game scuppered their hopes.

The match was postponed following a 10am inspection. Newtown's Welsh Cup tie with Welsh Premier rivals Airbus UK at Latham Park was also called off mid morning due to ice on the pitch, with the club left frustrated as the surface was playable by early afternoon.

Only one game survived in the Cymru Alliance, with Llanrhaeadr's home clash with Powys rivals Caersws and Gullfield's clash with Cefn Druids among the victims of the freeze.

There was also limited action in the Spar Mid Wales League with only three games, all on the coast, played as the wintry weather again took its toll.

St Martins praying to play again

ST MARTINS, who have played just once since the turn of the year, will be hopeful of returning to the pitch in the West Midlands League division one when they head to fifth placed Mahal on Saturday.

All games in the Merican Regional League were postponed last week with meant no first division action for WESTON RHYN who are set to return to duty on Saturday when a home clash against Shifnal Utd 97 in the league cup.

OSWESTRY BOYS CLUB were also sidelined last week as their first division home clash against Prees succumbed to the icy conditions.

DIFFRYN BANW, who have showed signs of improvement in the Spar Mid Wales League of late, were due to head to Caersws in the Montgomeryshire Cup last night (Wednesday).

Midfielder is released

THE New Saints' midfielder Jason Lampkin has been released by mutual consent. Since arriving at Park Hall from Villa Park in August, 20-year-old Lampkin has struggled to get a place in the side, making just two starts and four substitute appearances in Welsh Premier games.

He has been linked to switch to Colwyn Bay, managed by ex TNS assistant boss Lee Williams, while former TNS player Rob Williams, Tom Roberts, Matthew Berkeley (2) and Luke Holden also play for the seaside club.

Street next for Rovers

WATERLOO Rovers now know the identity of their opponents in the fourth round of the Central Wales Cup after Bow Street defeated New Quay 4-0.

Rovers will host Bow Street on Saturday, February 9.

It's games on as school beats the big freeze



Members of the lacrosse team didn't let a bit of snow stop their game

WHILE the recent winter weather may have once again brought our unsuspecting country to a standstill, giving thousands of happy children days off to build snowmen, Moreton Hall battled on with no closures.

Not that the pupils seem to have missed out on any fun.

The lacrosse team were all smiles as they played on through the snow and after the tennis courts were cleared of the white stuff players were quick to get out and to practice their shots ahead of the summer season and some better weather.



Pupils at Moreton Hall enjoy a game of tennis after the snow was cleared

Oswestry ladies storm to individual and team titles



Oswestry's Alison Lavender races to victory in the ladies race at Lilleshall

OSWESTRY runner Alison Lavender led the way as Shropshire athletes made the most of home advantage to score individual and team success in the fourth Grand Prix Express North Wales Cross Country League at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Lavender, last year's overall champion, followed three second placings this season to win the ladies race and lead the Oswestry Olympians to team victory in an event organised by Telford AC.

She finished the muddy 5,600m course in 22.17, almost 40 seconds clear of her nearest rival Georgia Garner from Colwyn Bay.

Charlotte Jones, another Oswestry Olympian, was the next Shropshire finisher in ninth in 25.44, while Telford AC's Sarah Mackness, in her first North Wales race of the winter, was 10th just one second behind.

Daisy Tickner, the reigning Shropshire Schools senior champion, was next home for the 10-strong Oswestry team in 18th, with a time of 26.55 and the second under 20 finisher.

Juliet Hoad, from Telford AC, was 19th and got in between the Tickner family as mum Alison Tickner was 20th just 10 seconds behind daughter Daisy to complete the scoring quartet.

Oswestry scored 48 points in the team race to comfortably win division one, with Wrexham second, 68 and Colwyn Bay third with 69. Colwyn Bay still lead overall with one race to go with 242 points while Eryri are second with 303 points. Oswestry are third overall on 333 points, 31 adrift of repeating their runners up place of last year. With another good turn out in the final race on home soil this is well within their grasp. Telford AC, weakened by the Lilleshall

ATHLETICS
by John Bridgwater

The victorious Oswestry Ladies team who led the field at Lilleshall

race clashing with a Midland Womens League race on the same day, still finished first in division two with 53 points and still lead overall with 165 points, while Bangor University and Prestatyn were second and third on the day and overall.

Telford Harriers were the fourth team with 176 points with Shrewsbury sixth, on 196 pts. and Whitchurch Whippets 10th 249 points.

Dominated

Wrexham won the ladies masters team race with 20 points and still lead overall, while Oswestry were just nine points behind in second on the day with Denbigh Harriers third and are third overall.

Telford AC masters were seventh on the day but still lie second overall 18 points behind the leaders.

In the mens event, Joe Brocklehurst repeated his victory from the third race at Wrexham, but this time had a comfortable winning margin of over a minute, and also had the satisfaction of helping Shrewsbury to win the mens team race.

He dominated the mens 9000m race throughout, coming home for a very impressive victory in 33.24, with Colwyn Bay's promising under 20 athlete Nathan Jones second in 34.42, while Oswestry's Paul Jones had his best cross country result of the season as he finished third, 35.24 and first

over 40, improving from seventh in the Wrexham race in November.

Dom Kirby, from Shrewsbury AC, was the next Shropshire finisher in 14th, 37.16, a massive improvement from 35th at the last race.

Sam Garmon, in 17th and fourth under 20, was the first Telford AC runner home in 37.33.

Graham Jones, 23rd and Rob Sharam 25th, led Whitchurch Whippets club to equal their highest team result of the season finishing fourth in division two.

Ashley Gray 26th, Tom Roo 28th and Andy Beeston 37th completed the Shrewsbury AC scoring team that won the division one team race with 152 points.

Tattenhall Runners were second with 225 points and Eryri third with 264 points and Telford AC were back in seventh place on the day with 419 points.

The Telford club also had a team of runners in the Birmingham League race in Coventry on the same day.

With one race to go at Oswestry on Saturday (Feb 2), Eryri, the reigning champions from Snowdonia, are well clear with 674 points whilst Deeside are second with 1071 points, Telford AC third with 1102 and Shrewsbury AC fourth with 1104 points, so just 33 points separates second to fourth as the teams battle it out for the minor team awards.

Bangor University won the second division team race with 181 points and lead overall, while Oswestry, who were second on the day, are third overall.

Whitchurch Whippets fourth on the day with 416 pts are also fourth overall.

Oswestry were the third masters team with 32 points, just three points behind the winners Eryri and are third overall. Shrewsbury AC were fourth, Telford AC 10th and Telford Harriers 11th.

Sports stars honoured Top award for ex-Frankton coach

SPORTS stars from across north Powys have been honoured at the 2012 Montgomeryshire Sports Awards.

The accolades, co-ordinated by Powys County Council's Sports Development Team, were given out at Newtown's entertainment venue Hafren last Friday.

Over 60 nominations were received for the awards, which saw the accolades go to: Junior Team of the Year: Llanfyllin U16s Girls Football Team, Senior Team of the Year: Llanidloes Ladies FC, Young Sports leader: Nathan Rogers, Volunteer of the Year: Tyler Clifton, Coach of the

Year: Clair Miles-Owen, Club of the Year: Castle Caerinion Short Mat Bowls Club, Disabled Sports Personality of the Year: Ffion Butler, Junior Sports Personality of the Year U12 s: Chloe Hamer, Junior Sports Personality of the Year U18 s: Adele Nicholl, Senior Sports Personality of the Year: Andy Davies.

Trophies were also presented to five individuals to recognise their outstanding contribution to sport. They were: Anne Smith, Football, Ellen Dawson, Swimming, Judy Birch, services to sport for WASPS, Maurice Lane, Football and Owen Durbidge, Football.

FORMER Frankton Cricket Club coach Chris Rogers has won the Sky Sports ECB Young Coach of the Year award for 2012.

Chris, 25, who is now coach at Whitchurch Cricket Club, won the coveted award in recognition of his outstanding services to grassroots cricket.

The England and Wales Cricket Board paid tribute to its top coaches at the prestigious Sky Sports ECB Coach of the Year Awards ceremony, held at Warwickshire University last Saturday. The awards recognised and celebrated the country's leading

cricket coaches who promote excellence in coaching throughout the game. The awards were presented by Sky Sports Cricket presenter, Charles Colville, and 2011 ECB Cricketer of the Year, Jonathan Trott.

Chris began his coaching at Frankton CC in 2007 and moved to Whitchurch CC in 2011, where he continues to play and coach.

Last year, Chris, who lives in Ellesmere, supported and helped initiate the Shropshire Cricket Board with their brand new coaching programme.

Earlier this year, to mark his

nomination for the award, Chris attended a training session that was led by England's spin coach, Peter Such, at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough.

He was joined there by 29 other hopeful nominees from around the country.

Commenting on his award, Chris said: "I am delighted to have won the Young Coach of the Year award. I feel honoured to be rewarded for something that I love doing and I am certain that this will encourage me further to continue my coaching journey."

Morda see both teams grounded by weather

LIKE most clubs in the area, Morda United saw the fixtures of both sides wiped out by the snow last weekend.

An improved forecast for this week sees the club now turn its attention to cup action next Saturday.

The first team travel to Telford Juniors in the Merican Regional League premier division cup, with the club entering this game as, effectively, the holders of the trophy by virtue of having won the Shropshire County League premier division cup during the league's last season in 2012.

MORDA RES will host a local derby on Saturday when high-flying **OSWESTRY LIONS** are the visitors in the first division cup. To enable this tie to be played to a finish, the kick off at Weston Road will be 1.30pm.

While the snow has taken over on the pitch, Morda club officials have been active, planning future fundraising events.

Club chairman Brian Davies hopes to arrange for a local band to appear at the Village Hall on Saturday, March 9, while a sponsored bike ride is being planned for May.

Cricketers pad up for quiz night

IT'S question time again for the county's cricketers next month when the Shropshire Cricket Board stages its annual quiz.

This year's event will be staged on Thursday, February 28, and will again be hosted by Oswestry Cricket Club. Proceeds will go to junior cricket development in Shropshire.

"It will be an evening of friendly competition and banter, ahead of the start of the season," said co-organiser Mike Robinson. "Prizes are available in several categories - so everyone has a chance to win."

It's a team competition, with a maximum of four people a side. The entry fee is £15 a team, which will include food at half-time. There will be 10 rounds: five of sport and five of general knowledge.

Any club interested in entering one or more teams should ring Mike Robinson on 07971 559657.

Racecourse fixtures are set in stone

THE North Wales Crusaders can have confirmed that after discussions with Glyndwr University they won't have to play any of their matches away from the Racecourse Ground in the new 2013 season.

There are development plans to turn the stadium into a world-class sporting venue, with expert Paul Fletcher appointed to oversee the process, but this will not affect any of Crusaders' fixtures as any work will be done around the fixture schedule.

Jamie Thomas, North Wales Crusaders' Chief Executive, is pleased with the outcome.

"Whilst we're fully supportive of the plans of the ongoing redevelopment of the Racecourse, we are delighted to be told that we'll be playing all of our games in Wrexham this year", he said.

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Crosses looking to down top team

TITLE hopefuls Four Crosses face a top of the table showdown with leaders Llanidloes Town at Foxen Manor on Saturday in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Nick Popyk's side are in third spot and five points adrift of high flying Llani, but crucially with a game in hand as they gear up for a return to action.

So, weather permitting after the rain this week, they will be anxious to claim the spoils on Saturday as they bid to step up the pressure in the chase for the league crown – and possible promotion to the Cymru Alliance.

Versatile

Llani have the edge as past form goes, winning seven of their last 10 outings, drawing two and losing just once, while Four Crosses have won five of their last 10 games, with two defeats and three draws.

"It's a massive game, a true six pointer, and hopefully the pitch will hold up," said boss Nick Popyk. "If we lose to Llani we'll be eight points behind them, but if we win we'll cut their lead to two with a game in hand."

"We could have done with playing some games before this weekend, but no excuses, it will be same for them as well."

Ryan Morris and Matty Jones are suspended but the club have been handed a boost with the versatile Ben Oakley turning down an approach from Cymru Alliance side Guilsfield.

It's a big weekend for Crosses who are due to host Montgomery in the Montgomeryshire Cup the following day.

Morda start cup defence

HOLDERS Morda United embark on the defence of the Mercian League premier division Cup with a first round trip to Telford Juniors on Saturday.

The Weston Road men saw off the Telford outfit 2-1 last season en route to the cup, but the encounter at Doseley Road will be a tough test this time around, particularly with the visitors having not played for such a length of time.

Morda's last outing saw a 6-3 win against Allecott on January 5, so Craig Rogers' side will be eager to get back to action. The reserves will take on Oswestry Lions in a derby in the first division cup at Weston Road.

Rugby ace Rory is guest speaker



Former England and Lions star Rory Underwood

LEGENDARY England and British Lions winger Rory Underwood will fly in as guest speaker at Oswestry rugby club's sportsman's dinner in March.

Underwood became one of the greatest wings in rugby union, representing England 85 times and also collecting six Lions caps between 1984 and 1996.

The strong running wing scored a record 49 tries for England, and one for the British Lions.

He will be joined on the top table by top Manchester comedian John Stiles, whose father is 1966 World Cup winning hero and former

Manchester United legend Nobby Stiles.

The dinner will take place at Park Hall Pavilion on the Showground on Saturday, March 9, with tickets costing £40 each.

The evening is open to the ladies as well.

Development

Meanwhile, Oswestry's highly rated youngster Calum Jones has earned his place in the Worcester Warriors Elite Rugby Player Development Group.

He is one of seven players from the Shropshire under-14 squad within the programme, with players

between 12 and 18 from across the West Midlands training at a number of centres across the region, as well as having sessions at the home of the Warriors at Six Ways.

These centres have previously developed a number of top players including England prospect Graham Kitchener.

Oswestry, meanwhile, look to get back to winning ways in the South Lancs and Cheshire League two tomorrow when they host Oldershaw, while the second team entertain Marple II in the Raging Bull North West League division three.

Villagers hope to boost survival with home win

HAVING played just once since December 8, Llanrhaeadr will be hoping to resume their Cymru Alliance survival battle at home to Flint Town United on Saturday.

The villagers, lying second from bottom, know their destiny will depend largely on whether they can turn their home games into much-needed points.

Of their five games that have been postponed in the last two months, four have been at home, including last week's home clash with Caersws.

After their recent lay-off, GUILDSFIELD are set to return to duty at Porthmadog as they bid to continue their upward trend. They are now eighth in the table after winning four of their last five outings, scoring 18 goals.

●Former Wolves and Manchester City star Steve Daley will be guest speaker when Guilsfield hold their Sporting Lunch on Sunday, April 28, at the Community Centre. Tickets are priced at £30 and are available from any committee member.

Town are aiming to stop run of losses

WELSHPOOL Town bid to stop the rot in the Spar Mid Wales League division one in tomorrow night's home clash with Berriew.

The Lilywhites had shown signs of improvement this term, but have lost their way since the turn of the year with three defeats.

Having slipped to third from bottom, they are back in action at Maesdyre tomorrow, weather permitting, when they hope to include new signing Daniel Lewis, from fellow Spar side Montgomery Town.

Mike Cockram is set to return to action, Stuart Buckley Robbins is back from suspension but Dan Bowen is still suspended.

Pool were due to visit Aberystwyth University last week, but had a free weekend due to problems with travelling.

Neighbours WATERLOO ROVERS, lying sixth, are also at home on Saturday as they bid to maintain their good run of form against lowly Dolgellau.

Meanwhile, Welshpool face a home derby with Waterloo in the last 16 of the league cup, with the date to be confirmed.

Elsewhere, Four Crosses visit Bulth Wells, the tie pairing the sides lying third and second in division one respectively.

Full draw: Dolgellau or Llanfyllin v Llanfair Utd, Bulth Wells v Four Crosses, Berriew v Newbridge, Llanrindod Wells v Tywyn Brynrua, Kerry or Bow Street v Rhosgob, Llanidloes v Machynlleth, Welshpool v Waterloo Rovers, Hay St Mary's v Knighton. Dates to be confirmed.

Friendly for Wales team

THE Welsh under-19 women will face their Norway counterparts in a friendly at Oswestry's Park Hall on Sunday, February 3 (11am).

The friendly is part of the continuing preparation for the UEFA women's under-19 tournament to be held in Wales in August.

Norway will also be playing Wales two days earlier at Latham Park, Newtown in another friendly. Admission is free for both games.

SAINTS HOPING FOR A CHANGE OF LUCK

THE New Saints will be glad to see the back of January as they enter a new month with Saturday's home clash against Aberystwyth Town (4.15) – the last game before the Welsh Premier's mid-season split.

Despite flying high at the top of the Welsh Premier, the defending champions have not had the best of starts to the new year with two drawn games in the league, a defeat in the league cup final, followed by a couple of postponements.

by John Bridgwater

Director of football Craig Harrison admits the Saints are desperate to get back on the pitch after a stop-start month, and hopes the Oswestry men can take their frustration out on Aberystwyth in Saturday's rearranged clash at Park Hall.

But points will be hard-earned with the Seasiders having bolstered their squad with a couple of signings including the arrival of former Welshpool midfielder Chris Venables from Llanelli as they bid to press their claims for a top six place in

the second half of the season.

The Saints also hope to include a new face for the weekend as they look to complete the paperwork before the transfer window closes today.

Striker Matty Williams is set to return after a hamstring injury, but midfielder Sam Finley is out after undergoing a minor nose operation, although he is expected to be fit in time for

next Tuesday's rearranged Welsh Cup tie with Rhyl.

"January has been a frustrating month for us, but despite all that, we're still seven points clear at the top of the table, and in a fantastic position," said Harrison.

"Last season we were three or four points behind at this stage, so we're delighted to be where we are. We've now got a big week coming up with three home games, two in the league and one in the cup (against Rhyl), and if we can win all three of those, then we'll be in a very strong position."

"But there's no easy games as we're coming down to the business end of the season now."

After suffering a blank fortnight, TNS need to hit the ground running as they bid to bounce back after losing on penalties to Carmarthen in the league cup final in their last action back on 12 January - a loss that ended any hopes of a treble this term.

Harrison admits the enforced break due to the weather has been frustrating, but one consolation is that it has allowed some injury niggles to clear up.

Oliver and Sarah take Cyprus title



Oliver Gwilt and Sarah Thomas in action at the Cyprus Badminton International

OLIVER Gwilt from Guilsfield had plenty to celebrate after winning the mixed doubles title along with Cardiff's Sarah Thomas in the Cyprus Senior Badminton International.

Oliver and Sarah, who overcame the top pair from Belgium in the final, now look forward to the Wales Senior National Championships this weekend.

They are tipped for more success as they are the highest ranked mixed senior pair and are the top seeds.

Oliver, who has continued support from his sponsor Yonex UK, has also been selected to represent Wales in the Senior European Championships to be held in Ramenskoye in Russia in the middle of February.

Only just moving up from the junior scene at the age of 19, this is Oliver's second senior international win in the last few months after lifting the Senior Carlton Irish Futures international held in Dublin.

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